

Spending on temporary workers plummets for April

JOY FOR MANOR AS £200k SAVED

Report by Lisa O'Brien

MORE than £200,000 was saved on the cost of temporary workers at Walsall Manor Hospital in a month as bosses strive to make cuts.

The amount spent on agency, locum and bank staff was £1.515 million in April, down by £212,000 on the month before.

The trust which runs the hospital has launched a recruitment drive for more than 85 nurses and already brought in more than 30 clinical support workers as it looks to cut down its temporary workers bill.

In April, a total of £698,000 was spent on agency workers – a reduction of £173,000.

Meanwhile, costs of paying staff for overtime reduced £45,000 to £483,000 last month.

However, there was a slight increase in the cost for locum workers, which rose from £330,000 in March to £334,000 in April.

In April, costs reduced for both medical cover and nursing. In a report to the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust board, which meets today, Thursday, interim director of finance and performance Russell Caldicott revealed: "Temporary staff costs reduced by £212,000 in April.

"Medical cover reduced by £50,000 in April to £582,000. Nursing reduced by £95,000 in April to £724,000."

Struggle

It comes after the trust spent almost £20m on temporary workers in 2014/15 as it struggled to control expenditure due to rising demand from patients. The new figures for April show an improvement on earlier this year when the wage bill of temporary workers at Manor Hospital rose by more than £160,000 in a month to £1.7m in March.

The total cost of temporary workers to trust already stands at more than £6.5m between January and April this year. It is hoped the level of expenditure on temporary workers will be cut through recruiting permanent nurses. A £3.5m investment has been approved to ensure the Manor Hospital has enough ward staff.

It had been hoped to see nurses recruited from Ireland in an attempt to get new people in quicker. However, health chiefs recently revealed there has been a more positive response from agencies in Greece, Italy and Spain.

Health bosses have said that they hope to recruit many of the nurses from the local area. Manor chiefs are braced for a £17.7m black hole this year – as they battle to bring finances under control. The trust which runs the hospital has faced increasing pressures, which has led to a £12.9m deficit over the last 12 months.

HERO SOLDIER'S FAMILY GATHER FOR TRIBUTE



Centre, from left, great nephew Nicholas Loxton and first cousin once removed Sarah Loxton Guest with fellow family members and dignitaries



War hero – Second Lieutenant Charles Loxton

BRAVERY, leadership and willingness – a Walsall-born war hero's life was marked at a West Midlands church 100 years after he died in duty during the First World War.

Second Lieutenant Charles Loxton, from Walsall, was repairing wiring on the front lines in Wulverghem in France when he was shot. He died while being taken to hospital.

Second Lieutenant Loxton and his fellow comrades are immortalised by a painted glass window at St Luke's Church in Cannock.

On Saturday, relatives of the war hero descended on the town from as far away as Australia.

A total of 17 distant family mem-

bers were the guests of honour at a memorial service at the church.

The names which adorn the memorials around the town were read out on the day.

Loxton was born in Walsall in 1892 and was educated at Oxford University before war broke out in 1914. He volunteered for service and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 5th Battalion of the North Staffordshire Regiment.

He travelled to France with the 1/5th Battalion in March in 1915. His bravery, leadership and willingness endeared him to his brothers in arms as well as officers. But on 23 May 1915, while repairing wiring, he was shot. He was carried

by his soldiers to the regimental aid post, but later died.

But Loxton and his fellow comrades, remain immortalised by the painted-glass window. It is positioned in the south transept of St Luke's in Church Street that was designed by the renowned artist Reginald Frampton.

The image is based on the Last Communion on the battlefield and was inspired by a letter that had been written to his parents. His face can be seen just behind the padre.

David Gethin, lay minister at St Luke's had a leading role in organising the service and inviting the Loxton family. He said: "We are absolutely thrilled they have come."

ARTS

Students' stage is set to show talents

STUDENTS are adding the finishing touches to their final stage performances of the year as part of a college festival.

Walsall College youngsters are showcasing their talents to a public audience, when a series of shows are staged in The Venue, with the first due next Wednesday. Level 2 students will perform Courtyard Dogs, a Portuguese take on Macbeth.

Tickets are priced at £3 and are on sale between 10am-12pm each day from the Finance Team. Email performingarts@walsallcollege.ac.uk for further details.

ENTERTAINMENT

Live music in aid of Nepal disaster

THERE will be a night of live music in Walsall to raise money for the Nepal earthquake disaster next Wednesday.

The Rendezvous for Nepal will be at the Goldmine Centre, Lower Hall Lane, and all proceeds from the event will go to the Nepal Aid appeal.

Leah McFall and Sasha Simone from BBC show The Voice will be on hand at the event, along with Carl McGregor's soul band Project 21 and much more.

Tickets for the event are £10, to book or donate call 01922 621951.

EMERGENCY

Cooker fire sparks evacuation of flats

EIGHT people were evacuated when food caught fire on a cooker at a sheltered housing complex in Walsall.

A pensioner living at Nehemiah Court, in Bath Road, was also led to safety by firefighters who were called to his ground floor flat on Monday shortly before 8.30am after reports it was on fire.

He was treated at the scene by paramedics for smoke inhalation when the emergency services were called to the premises, in Caldmore. Crews from Walsall, Bloxwich and Wednesbury, tackled the flames and smoke. The fire was contained to the man's kitchen.

INSIDE

STUDENTS SHOW THEIR FACE VALUE



PAGE 6

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CONTENTS	
PETER RHODES	4
LETTERS	7
MEMORY LANE	16
FAST TICKET	17
TV	21
PROPERTY	25
MOTORING	35
SPORT	43-44
CONTACT US	

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Tributes to Jason, after body found



Jason Whitehouse

DEVASTATED friends and neighbours have paid tribute to a 'generous and helpful' man who was found dead in Walsall. Jason Whitehouse, from Willenhall, went missing last August after walking out of Walsall Manor Hospital where he had been receiving treatment.

The 43-year-old's body was found near to Sneyd Brook in Primley Avenue Park on May 12. The news of his death has been met with shock and sadness by residents around his former home in Elm Street.

Neighbour Kulwinder Kaur, aged 30, said Mr Whitehouse was a generous

man who would always go out of his way to help her and her young child.

"He was a good neighbour," said Ms Kaur, a single parent who suffers from arthritis. "Because of my illness I need a lot of support and Jason would always offer to help. He would clear my garden for me and sort out the bins.

"He never asked for anything in return. I would offer to pay him and he would always refuse. He did things out of the goodness of his heart."

It is believed Mr Whitehouse had lived in the street since the mid-1990s and had three grown-up children.

Other neighbours described Mr Whitehouse as a 'kind man' who was regularly seen walking his dogs around the streets of Willenhall.

"He was a class bloke," said Rhys Mason, aged 19. "Anything anyone wanted doing he would be the first person to offer help. It was a big shock when we heard he had gone missing. I grew up with his son, Luke, and I know it will be hard for him."

A post-mortem proved inconclusive, but police say they are not treating the death as suspicious. The case has now been passed on to the coroner.

Crash tragedy mother and daughter named

A MOTHER and daughter from Walsall killed on holiday in Kent in a crash that claimed three lives have been named.

Gloria Roberts, aged 65, and her daughter Dawn, 36, who had a daughter aged just 11 months, were in a black Renault Megane that collided with a motorcycle.

Father of four Malcolm Batt, 55, of Kent, was on the motorcycle and also died.

In a statement, the family of Gloria and Dawn Roberts said: "Gloria Roberts, wife of Colin Roberts for almost 43 years, together with her daughter, Dawn Roberts, mother of 11-month-old Clara Brooker, were both tragically killed whilst on holiday in Kent.

"They are survived by Colin Roberts, by Dean Roberts who is the son of Gloria and Colin and also brother of Dawn, and by Jason Brooker, partner of Dawn."

Police said three other people in the car, a baby and two men, survived.

They were taken to hospital with injuries that were not thought to be life threatening. The tragedy happened at about 3.50pm on May 10 on the A259 Rye Road in Brookland.

Gloria Roberts lived on Hall Lane, Walsall Wood, while her daughter was of Stanford Avenue, Great Barr.

A 36-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and was released on bail until July 21. An inquest was opened and adjourned by the South East Kent Coroner, who heard that all three died from multiple injuries.

Pastor's den pledge

A CHURCH pastor is challenging children to raise more £100 for a charity so that she can kip inside a makeshift den. Youngsters at Delves Community Baptist Church in Walsall are taking part in Save the Children's Build a Den Day on Sunday. Minister the Rev Ruth Wood has promised to sleep in a den overnight if the children collect more than £100 in sponsorship cash.

James makes his Mark on contest



Contestants look on as Mark Rhodes, from Darlaston, celebrates with the winner, James Machin

IT is not his usual celebrity oppo - but it didn't stop Darlaston TV star Mark Rhodes celebrate new Mr Black Country's reign with a bop. Mark was a judge at the Miss and Mr Black Country final held at the Village Hotel in Dudley.

And after James Machin, from West Bromwich, picked up the prestigious award he marked the moment with the 33-year-old star, who is usually seen with presenting partner Sam Nixon.

After winning the title on Sun-

day night, Mr Machin, aged 23, said that overcoming the fear of failure was the biggest challenge for him in winning the contest.

Mr Machin, who has also competed for the Mr Birmingham and Mr Nottingham crowns said: "I had just gone through two already and not claimed the top prize, so I think the toughest challenge was actually facing rejection again."

Wombourne's Jade Secker was crowned Miss Black Country. The pair will now go on to the Miss and Mr Eng-

land pageant in August. But for Mr Machin and Miss Secker, it is the beginning of a year as ambassadors for the region, and the first step to the national final.

Mark was joined on the judging panel by several former beauty queens, including previous Miss Black Country Shelley-Marie Sumner, of Walsall, Miss Wales 1995 and Miss UK 1996 Rachael Butler, Miss England 2013 Kirsty Heslewood, and Hybrid Makeup's Leah Heaven.

Cash mule in cloned SIM bank account con gets jail

A MAN named Innocent who became a 'cash mule' for a gang of internet fraudsters who stole tens of thousands of pounds from their victim's bank account has been jailed for eight months.

The gang coerced Innocent Taruvinga from Walsall into letting them use his bank account to plunder another man's account of £40,000.

Miss Fiona Cortese, prosecuting at Stafford Crown Court last Wednesday, said the victim Philip Marsden was tricked by a phoney website mimicking his own bank's online service. The fraudsters also got hold of his mobile phone details to set up a cloned SIM card.

Using the cloned phone in the London area, eight withdrawals of £5,000 each were taken from Mr Marsden's account and put into Taruvinga's bank account.

Miss Cortese said a total of £33,325 was then withdrawn from the defendant's account. She said Mr Marsden discovered money was missing from his account after his mobile stopped working. He called his mobile number from his home phone and a man answered.

Vodafone discovered a cloned SIM was being used in London and the phone had been used for the illicit withdrawals. Mr Marsden has since been compensated in full by his bank. Police arrested 26-year-old Taruvinga at Gatwick airport on December 5.

Taruvinga, of Carl Street, Leamore, admitted a charge of transferring criminal property. Mr Andrew Baker, mitigating, said Taruvinga was 'a bottom-end stooge' in the bank swindle.

Homes plan for old school site

A FORMER school in Willenhall may be transformed into dozens of homes and the new headquarters of a top engineering firm. Part of the old Little London buildings would be demolished.

However, some of the front of the school, including the original entrance and clock tower, will be kept.

BE Wedge Holding wants to create its new headquarters at the site. The firm was founded almost 150 years ago in Willenhall by John Wedge. The remainder of the site will then be sold on for up to 30 houses.

Plans have been submitted to Walsall Council and will be considered by the planning committee or officers under delegated powers.

There would be parking spaces for 60 vehicles from the company.

Double trip for town ramblers

TWO Walsall group of the ramblers have two walks on Sunday. Cotswold ramble is a moderate walk of around seven miles from Northleach, Gloucestershire. The second walk covers the second section of the National Forest Way. Call 01922 863672 or 01922 453805.

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NEW RANGE OF SUPER EFFICIENT BRITISH MADE GAS FIRES

£800,000 project to spruce up empty flats

TEN empty eyesore flats in Walsall that once suffered vandal attacks will get a long-awaited £800,000 revamp after they were taken over by a new landlord.

The money will be used to transform the 10 disused three bedroom maisonettes into 10 one-bedroom units large enough for up to two people at the derelict flats above shops in Stephenson Square, Beechdale.

Metal thieves had previously stripped them of boiler parts and copper pipes, causing water to flood the stores on the ground floor.

Now social housing landlord Friendship Care and Housing is investing £800,000 into the regeneration scheme that will also see new offices created at the block to complement the scheme. The work is due to be completed early next year.

Friendship's managing director Jonathan Drifill said: "It's our mission to bring neglected space back into use in our communities. It's been over 10 years since the flats were occupied so we are thrilled to bring these much-needed homes back to Beechdale. The work will secure the future tenancies of the existing shops, whilst enhancing the look of the entire parade."

Birchills-Leamore ward representative Councillor Chris Jones said: "It has been a long time coming, but we are delighted that something is being done to bring these properties back into use. This work is welcome as over the years the residents and the councillors campaigned for action."

£26m revamp of roads goes on

TWO busy roads in Walsall will reopen by the end of the year as part of £26 million highways improvements, council chiefs have insisted. The revamp of routes in Darlaston and Pleck is scheduled to be fully completed by June next year.

A stretch of Bentley Mill Way has been closed since last year during work to widen the route and lower the carriageway under James Bridge aqueduct to make it easier for lorries.

The section at the junction of Cemetery Road is being resurfaced, with new traffic signals to be installed, with the route to reopen in December. The final phases of surfacing along Bentley Road South, which has also undergone a rail bridge replacement, is also due to finish this summer.

Spiky subject for horticulturalists

HEDGEHOGS will be the focus of a meeting of the Streetly Horticultural Society on Tuesday with guest speaker Terry Green at Streetly Community Centre in Foley Road East. For details call 0121 353 1437.

Fly-tipping hotspot targeted again



Council staff clear up fly-tipping

MATTRESSES, pieces of wood and cardboard boxes were dumped in the middle of a Walsall road, causing delays to traffic.

The pile of rubbish was fly-tipped in Sutton Road, at the junction of Skip Lane, and caused problems for drivers as it blocked part of the road. It is the latest fly-tipping incident in Skip Lane, and council workers were quickly on site to clear up the mess.

Councillor Lee Jeavons, Walsall Council's environment boss, said: "There have been 33 instances of fly-tipping during the last 12 months

along Skip Lane. This is known by our crews as a problem area so they proactively check and pick up from this location.

"Fly-tipping is a major issue in the borough and residents can play a major part in catching the culprits."

Phaeasy Park Farm Councillor Chris Towse added: "It is a disgraceful matter. Those people who do this should be prosecuted. This is costing the council hundreds of thousands of pounds every year."

Last month, the council revealed plans to use secret spy cameras to

tackle fly-tipping in the borough.

Walsall Council has spent £345,000 cleaning up rubbish dumped over the last two years and bosses now want to spend £4,000 on eight devices to covertly record offenders.

Each will be positioned in dumping hotspots around Walsall in the next few months and moved around to cope with demand.

Fly-tipping can be reported by emailing clean and green services at cleanandgreen@walsall.gov.uk or by calling 01922 653344 or 01922 653020.

Doctor in cancer scare after duff test results

A RETIRED doctor says he thought he had cancer after the Manor Hospital bungled his test results – and he is considering legal action.

Dr Safa Shaya's results showed a higher than normal levels of a protein in his prostate. Another test was ordered and Dr Shaya knew it meant there was a higher risk of him having cancer.

However the second exam revealed his levels were much lower. With the original PSA – prostate-specific antigen – test on April 1, he was told his PSA level was 10 nanograms per millilitre, more than twice what is considered the normal level of between 2 and 4ng/mL.

The 64-year-old of Persehouse Street, Walsall, said: "I was scared. It is not so much about the test itself it is what could come after it." Concerned about the results consultants at the hospital ordered a retest and thankfully the new results showed Mr Shaya's PSA level was actually around 2mg/mL.

But the Dudley Council worker, who used to be a biochemist at Walsall Manor, is angered by the mix-up and has claimed it is likely hundreds more tests results were botched on the day. He said: "During my time we would do about 600 to 700 tests a day. This matter should be investigated immediately as it is dealing with people's lives."

Mr Shaya has formally complained to Walsall Manor Hospital and said he would seek legal action if he was not compensated for the stress caused. In response Richard Kirby, chief executive of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "On behalf of the trust, I apologise for any distress this matter may have caused him. We welcome patients' complaints and concerns and take them extremely seriously."

In addition the trust's medical director Amir Khan has moved to clarify that a PSA test is not a sole means of checking for prostate cancer. He said: "A diagnosis of prostate cancer cannot be based on PSA testing alone and must be used with other clinical tests to rule out or confirm the presence of cancer."



Dr Safa Shaya

Chris proves to be bright sparky



Site manager Pete Dorrian congratulates construction student Chris Roberts, aged 18, at the hub

CONSTRUCTION students have been putting their stamp on Walsall College's £11 million business and sports hub and for one student this has led to a permanent job.

Work on the new facility in the town centre started in August 2014. Chris Roberts, aged 18, has only just completed the Level Three Electrical Installation course at the college but following a work placement on the develop-

ment, he has been offered a position as a trainee electrician with David Paradine Ltd, the electrical sub-contractors on the hub.

Before work on the project began in August 2014, a deal was struck between the college and Interserve Construction, the contractors leading the development, to offer valuable placement opportunities to students.

Since then around 10 students have completed work experience

onsite, covering a range of trades including brickwork, electrical installation, plumbing and quantity surveying.

Another seven students are also expected to work on the scheme before it officially opens to the public in September.

Meanwhile talks are currently taking place with the painting sub-contractors to offer additional opportunities to painting and decorating students.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Magic night in aid of charity

IT will be a kind of magic when a Queen tribute act and choir perform in aid of good causes.

The Live Forever concert will feature rock band It's a Kinda Queen and Sheffield Male Voice Choir. It is at Walsall Town Hall on June 20 in aid of the mayor's charity appeal for 2015-2016 and is being organised by Councillor Angela Underhill.

Music starts at 7.30pm until late. There will be a bar and cold refreshments. Tickets are priced at £12 and are available from the box office on 0845 111 2900.

Mayor says thanks to poet laureate

THE Mayor of Walsall has thanked his poet laureate for his work over the next year – and said he hoped his successor keeps the role going.

Donovan Campbell took the unpaid job for Pete Smith's mayoral year. And Councillor Smith says he has raised the profile of poetry across the borough. He added: "I am very grateful for the contributions that Donovan has made during my mayoral year."

"It will be the decision of each future mayor as to whether they wish to retain this honorary post and if so, who should fill it."

Relatives of two patients sought

A HOSPITAL trust in the Black Country looking to trace relatives of two patients.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust wants to locate the family of Gerald Clift of Willenhall, born in the year of 1935.

They are also looking to find relatives of Colin Lloyd, of Moxley, born in the year of 1942.

Family members can contact Julie Venables at the Walsall Manor general office on 01922 656207.

Market's return to be huge town boost

THE return of Darlaston Market is being championed by a regeneration chief.

The market with up to 40 stalls is due to be relaunched by private operators. The council-run event was scrapped four years ago in a bid to save £60,000 under budget cuts.

Councillor Mohammed Nazir said: "The return of Darlaston market will be a huge boost to the traders and the town as a whole. We will do everything possible to re-establish it."

Youths dealt with

ACTION has been taken against a group of youths who have been throwing eggs at homes. Calls had been received from residents living on the Netherhall Park estate in Phaeasy. The youths have been handed acceptable behaviour contracts, which are voluntary written agreements.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



I'M not surprised the Prince of Wales's handshake with Gerry Adams lasted 12 seconds. I once shook hands with Adams and it did go on a bit. He has an excellent dry, warm, firm handshake and his eye-contact, smile, demeanour and body-language all say: "Trust me." I didn't.

RESEARCH by Microsoft suggests that the average attention span of humans is getting shorter. It has fallen from 12 seconds in 2000 to, wow, look at that cloud!

FIRST cuckoo of the year (at last) but there's a distinct shortage of baby bunnies in the fields around Chateau Rhodes. The local falconer says it's because the biggest rabbit warren has been taken over by that elusive creature, a polecat. I have only ever seen one alive and a couple dead at the roadside. If you've never seen a polecat, there's some excellent BBC footage of wildlife cameraman and national treasure Simon King filming two at once at http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/European_Polecat#p007xt1g

FROM all the headlines about new Culture Secretary John Whittingdale taking on the BBC, you might assume the future of the TV licence can be measured in days – well, weeks, maybe? Dream on. No change is expected before 2026. Meanwhile, we discover the long-awaited inquiry into alleged child abuse in the Establishment could drag on for eight years and convicted Boston bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's appeal against the death penalty could last 18 years. If you want a process to go on forever, bring on the suits. What we need is a thorough, international inquiry into why things take so long. It would require a chairman on a huge salary who, before the inquiry starts, is found to have loads of skeletons in his cupboard and has to be replaced. And lawyers on enormous salaries with a vested interest in never reaching a solution.

WHEN the new series of Benefits Street (C4) was announced, it was condemned as "poverty porn." In fact, it is pure tragedy, an unbearably sad tale of wasted lives, feckless males and desperate, prematurely aged women. Since it was filmed, drug dealer Neil Maxwell has been jailed for a double stabbing and poor Reagan, Julie Young's profoundly disabled son, has died. Yet the title is misleading. The villain of this nightmare is not the benefits system but a community awash with drugs and terrorised by the crime that addiction breeds. If you still believe the "war on drugs" can be won, watch this and think again.

JUNE is just around the corner and, so far this year, we have had precisely one hot day. We spend far too much time worrying about global warming when we should be demanding it.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Success for adult learner students

FORMER Walsall College student turned BBC Science presenter Jon Wood returned to the college to help celebrate the success of current students at its annual Adult Students' Awards ceremony.

He was guest speaker at the event on Tuesday which celebrates the hard work and achievements of the college's adult learners.

During his speech, Mr Wood re-

called his experiences at the college and told students how they should be extremely proud of what they have achieved so far but should also use this to drive them on even further.

After studying science as an adult at the college in the early 90s, Mr Wood carved a career as a biomedical scientist, specialising in microbiology before going on to teach psychology and neuroscience. In 2012 he joined

the BBC Science team and has delivered live experiences for shows including Bang Goes The Theory, The One Show and CBeebies.

During the event, 23 outstanding students were presented with Student of the Year Awards, along with an award for the overall Adult Learner of the Year, won by Supported Learning student Michael Gladstone, aged 23.



Students celebrate their awards

UTC had a damning report before closure

By Craig Hughes

ONE-IN-SIX pupils at a multi-million pound Walsall school were suspended at least once for bad behaviour, a damning inspection report has revealed ahead of its closure.

Poor teaching, bad pupil behaviour and low attendance have plagued the Black Country University Technical College.

It was announced last month that the UTC, which specialises in engineering, was to shut this summer after just four years.

The findings of an Ofsted inspection have been released publicly for the first time. They show that 17 per cent of pupils were excluded at least once and eaching has been branded 'weak'. Also, it is reported that students 'do not feel safe' because of the behaviour and some sixth formers were 'not on appropriate courses'.

Decline

The £9.5 million school was launched at the former Sneyd Community site, off Vernon Way, Bloxwich, in September 2011 with the aim of catering for 14 to 19 year olds. It currently has 158 students, although 57 complete their studies by the summer.

It was anticipated students would relocate to a new site, a former car repair shop in Portland Street, Walsall town centre but last month governors instead announced the UTC will close on August 31.

Lead inspector Helen Reeves said: "Last year 17 per cent of students experienced at least one fixed term exclusion from college. This is much higher than national levels.

"Leaders, including governors and the sponsors, have not addressed low standards, poor behaviour, low levels of attendance and weak teaching in the college. There is no evidence of improvement in these areas and some have declined."

Bosses have previously blamed finances, staffing, students numbers and a poor inspection for the closure

150 attend soldier memorial service



The Walsall Patriots service in memory of Lee Rigby at Bloxwich Cenotaph



Families gather during the minute's silence to honour killed soldier Lee Rigby

THE organisers of a memorial service for murdered soldier Lee Rigby have praised 150 people who turned up to pay their respects in Bloxwich.

The event at Bloxwich War Memorial was organised by Walsall Patriots to mark two years since the murder of Fusilier Rigby by Islamic fanatics in Woolwich, London.

About 150 people, including children, attended the service, holding St George's Cross flags printed with 'RIP Lee Rigby' and images of the soldier on them.

The group has been compared to the far-right English Defence League but leader Liam Walsall rejected the suggestion, and said the service was a family memorial event.

The 18-year-old said: "When a British soldier walks on a British street and gets killed that is an issue. When we come out to pay our respects we get called extremists. If you can't remember your own soldiers in your own country that's a problem."

Asked why it was important to mark Fusilier Rigby's death locally, as he was killed in London and originally from Manchester, Mr Walsall said: "We are bringing patriotism back to Walsall, back to England."

"There is still no permanent memorial for him in Woolwich. We aren't far right and we aren't linked to the EDL, we are just everyday patriots who want to do our bit for our country."

A minute's silence and a prayer was then led by Rector Roger Williams, of the nearby All Saint's Bloxwich Church.

Warning on dangers of slug pellets for animals

PET owners are being warned to be vigilant as the number of pets poisoned by slug pellets is set to increase this summer.

Every year, White Cross Vets, which has a practice on Leamore Lane in Bloxwich and on Regent Road, Tiv-dale, sees approximately 40 cases across its 14 practices.

Figures from the Vets Poison Information Service – aimed at veterinary professionals to offer information on actual and suspected acute poisoning in animals – reveal that more than 1,700 cases of pesticide poisoning were reported in 2014. Of these, 114 involved Metaldehyde, which is the toxic ingredient in slug pellets.

James Horner, clinic director in Bloxwich, said: "The weather has been perfect for slugs recently – with both wet and sunny conditions – and the majority of people reach for the slug pellets as a matter of course at this time of year. Most are unfortunately unaware of the devastating consequences that slug pellets can have if their pet dog or cat eats them."

"Metaldehyde is used in most types of slug pellets, and even small amounts of the pellets can cause significant poisoning with severe signs of illness often occurring within an hour of consumption."

"Warning signs of poisoning typically include incoordination, muscle spasms, muscle rigidity, twitching, tremors and convulsions. Unfortunately too many of pets that are poisoned in this way have to be put to sleep."

£1,800 raised for good causes

A POIGNANT family birthday party held in memory of a crash victim has raised £1,800 for charity.

The family of Richard Key organised a night of fun at the Victory Club, New Invention, on what would have been his 30th birthday. He was killed in a road traffic accident in Essington in January 2005, aged 19.

More than 250 friends and family attended the celebration, which featured a singer, disco, and raffle.

Denise Robinson, Richard's mother, said: "This night was everything Richard would have wanted. The fact that we were able to raise money for worthy charities somehow keeps Richard's memory alive."

Local sight loss charity Beacon and Brake Road Safety Charity will benefit from the fundraiser.

Rhyming time with annual summer fair

AN annual summer fair at a Black Country church will have a nursery rhyme theme. It takes place at Rushall Parish Church, Leigh Road, Walsall, on June 6 from 1pm with a range of stalls, amusements and games for children. Admission is free.

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Teenager's savings of £4k stolen over weeks

A MAN who stole more than £4,000 of savings from a teenage Asperger's Syndrome sufferer, taking him to withdraw cash 20 times over two months, has been jailed.

Matthew Shepherd plundered the savings account of the 17-year-old, who he treated 'despicably' to pay off his drug and gambling debts, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Shepherd, from Paddock, was in a long-term relationship with the teenager's mother and knew about her child's savings and disability, said Mr David Iles, prosecuting.

The 35-year-old treated the teenager cruelly, taunting and swearing at him, Mr Iles said.

Shepherd, who owed £6,500 and was frantic to repay loan sharks, warned the teenager he would split up with the victim's mother if the money was not withdrawn. The defendant took the youth to a Walsall building society branch 20 times during June and July last year taking out between £500 and £60-a-time.

There was only £10 of the £4,290 left in the account when the mother realised what was going on.

Money had been put in the account to use towards either university fees or the cost of a car. The couple separated and on October 23 police arrested Shepherd who had also stolen a £100 drill from a couple he had been doing gardening work for.

Miss Wendy Miller, defending, said he had been addicted to heroin from the age of nine and added: "He went to loan sharks to try to generate cash

Specialist firm wins contract

A FIRE protection company that carries out mechanical and electrical repairs has landed a contract with a construction firm.

Spectrum Fire Protection (UK) Ltd, of Middlemore Lane, Aldridge, was awarded the contract for the repairs and maintenance of the vent system at properties being built at Walsall's Waterfront South.

The site is being developed by Jessup.

Spectrum landed the deal after attending Walsall Council's Meet the Buyer event last year. It gives suppliers and traders a chance to meet major contractors working on regeneration projects in the borough.

The family-run company has been trading for 26 years.

Open day marks volunteer week

AN open day is due to mark volunteers' week. Walsall Volunteer Action are hosting the event at Jerome Chambers, Bridge Street, Walsall on Tuesday from 10am to 3pm. For more details call 01922 619840.

Smokey's signals start of new look



Smokey's restaurant in Station Street

A WALSALL restaurant opened its doors again following a £30,000 refurbishment. A tasty new chapter began at the town's Smokey's American diner as staff and hungry customers celebrated its relaunch.

The Station Street restaurant has a complete new look, with work done inside and out and items of American memorabilia including a bull's head fixed to the walls. There is also a popcorn machine for customers and the toilets have had a revamp. And as well as rustling up steaks, hot dogs, ribs and other American favourites, the

restaurant hosted a night of music to celebrate its new look. Investor Matt Flint said more than £30,000 had been spent on the work.

He said: "This is a really exciting time for Smokey's and I think it provides a boost which Walsall needs."

"The main reason for the refurbishment is to try and attract more footfall around here. Because we are right opposite the train station we have a great chance to attract customers from all over the UK."

"The town centre is going through a regeneration so we wanted to be on

the forefront and become one of the places to go in Walsall to eat. We also are going to become a franchise with other Smokey's restaurants so hopefully this is the start of bigger and better things."

Lester Clayton and his band, who have recently supported mega star Ed Sheeran on tour, were the special guests for the launch night.

Lester said: "It's our first time here in Walsall and are good friends with Matt so we wanted to help him with the launch night. It looks great in there, they've done a great job."

Housing fight lost as inspector backs plans

CAMPAIGNERS against a scheme for new homes in Walsall are licking their wounds, after finally losing their eight-year battle.

The project in Woodside Close, Park Hall has been rejected seven times by Walsall Council after hundreds of residents signed petitions against it.

But developers behind the plans for the apartments have now been given permission by an independent planning inspector.

The applicant has said the whole process over the years has cost him around £140,000 in submitting applications, architect and planning consultation fees. Council planners repeatedly turned down the scheme for 14 homes across three blocks that will see existing properties on the land demolished.

There have been eight applications made in total, with councillors refusing to consider one as it had not addressed the issues in previous failed plans. Campaigners were concerned over the impact on the character of the area and a proposed sub-station. Developer David Stone said he was pleased with the outcome and work could start later this year. He said he was concerned it had taken such a long time.

Unfortunate

"It has been frustrating and disappointing but I am pleased it is now going to be able to take place," he said. Councillor Rose Martin, who has helped battle against the scheme on behalf of residents, said: "It is very unfortunate. The majority of residents in the area fought against this for eight years. As far as they are concerned it is very high density and a complete over-development which is out of character with the rest of the area."

"I really do think these people down in Bristol should not make these decisions as they don't know the area and the character of the area."

More than 300 residents have been against the scheme and the Government has also turned down the development before on appeals. However, in the latest decision notice, which grants planning permission, inspector Ian Radcliffe said the scheme would represent a marked improvement for the site.

Regeneration chief, Councillor Mohammed Nazir, added: "This has been a long and difficult situation for all concerned including the occupiers of neighbouring premises who have had to deal with uncertainty over the years."

Cycle trek in aid of good cause



From left, Darren Russell, Carol Collier, Kerry Collier, Darren Peach, Adam Copeland, James Turner and Martyn Collier, with members of the cancer support group Pat Biggers and Denise Moorhouse,

A GROUP of cyclists are setting off on a ride from the Black Country to Somerset in honour of a former nurse whose life was cut short by cancer.

Friends Darren Russell and Martin Collier will hit the road later this month with six other cyclists to raise money for Walsall Breast Cancer Support Group. And for one of the riders, Darren Peach, the gruelling 72-hour ride will be extra sentimental.

In November 2013 his sister Tracey Lomax died of breast cancer but for most of her illness she suffered in silence and did not get the kind of comforting support Walsall Breast Cancer Support Group specialises in.

Mr Peach, 44, and from Millfield

Avenue, Bloxwich, said his sister, who used to be a nurse at the old Gosport Hospital in Walsall, would approve of the cause. She died at the age of 46.

"Maybe it was because she was a nurse but Tracey decided not to tell us about her terminal diagnosis until a few months before she died and went through most of it on her own," he said. The eight-strong group set off from Bloxwich today, Thursday, and hope to arrive in the seaside town Bournemouth in under 72 hours. It is the second time Mr Russell and Mr Collier have completed the route. Visit www.justgiving.com/walsallbreastcare to support the bike ride.



Breast cancer, Tracey Lomax

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nursery set to create spaces

A NURSERY in Walsall is to expand, creating more than 20 new spaces and jobs, under plans lodged with the council.

First Friends Day Nursery, which provides childcare for 30 youngsters, wants to increase the size of its building in Pelsall Lane, Rushall. It wants to provide an extra 20 places for two-year-olds and an extra seven jobs will be created in the proposals.

The application has been submitted to Walsall Council and will be considered by members of the planning committee in the coming months.

Patrols out to tackle cruisers

POLICE patrols are being carried out at a boy racer hotspot to enforce a Black Country-wide injunction.

Officers from Aldridge North and Walsall Wood neighbourhood team are carrying out regular checks at Maybrook industrial estate. A High Court injunction has been agreed in a bid to tackle the problems of boy racers.

Sgt Mari Amos, from the neighbourhood team, said: "Future co-ordinated events will continue to take place on a regular basis and any breaches of the injunction witnessed by officers will be robustly enforced."

Clean-up across town continues

VOLUNTEERS have been hailed for making a difference during the start of a Big Spring Clean initiative.

Residents in Walsall South have been doing their bit to tidy up their community.

Councillor Khizar Hussain, portfolio holder for community, leisure and culture said: "This year's Big Spring Clean has got off to a great start with volunteers pitching in to make a significant difference." For more information call 01922 653344.

Man needs treatment after car hits tree

A MAN was taken to hospital after the car he was travelling in hit a tree.

He suffered a suspected chest injury and was taken to Sandwell Hospital for treatment. The smash happened in Newton Road, Great Barr.

One lane was closed in the aftermath, leading to traffic jams. Fire crews, police and paramedics were called just after 10pm last Tuesday.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Neil Spencer said minor delays were caused for a short time.

Complaints over yobs

NOISY youths have been congregating and causing nuisance within a village. Complaints have been received about anti-social behaviour around Ash Tree Road, Chapel Street and High Street, Pelsall. Pelsall Neighbourhood Team said they are proactively patrolling in the area.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



But where does the poverty line fall?

ALMOST a third of people in the UK fell below the poverty line at least once between 2010 and 2013, according to new figures from the Office of National Statistics.

The thing is though, look around you, and you don't see thousands of Oliver Twist-type street urchins clamouring for food, or old people dressed in rags. Which is not really surprising, when poverty is these days defined as having a disposable income of less than 60 per cent of the national average.

But surely the whole point of averages is that some people will come above that line, and others will be below it.

And extending that logic a little further, a sure-fire way to lift people out of poverty would be to reduce the average standard of living.

Now there are undoubtedly some very poor people in the world today, children suffering from malnutrition, families without clean drinking water, but by and large they don't live in this country.

And they don't have mobile phones, televisions or a disposable income of any kind, let alone one that is 60 per cent of the national average.

The truth is that almost everybody in this country is comparatively well-off, and we really should be more appreciative of what we do have.

Casual use of terms like 'poverty' do not just give people a sense of entitlement. They are also a great insult to the millions of genuinely poor people around the world.

□□□□□

THERE has been a lot of talk recently about police cuts. Next month Dudley, which is Britain's second biggest town, will be without a police station which is open to the public, which is a truly ridiculous state of affairs.

The message doesn't seem to have got through to police in Wallsend, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne though.

Last week, the Northumbria force managed to scramble four patrol cars and a helicopter as they chased three cows which escaped from a dairy farm. One of the poor creatures was shot by police marksman.

A bit harsh. I thought in those parts, when confronted by large animals, they just got Newcastle United fans to punch them in the face.

□□□□□

ACCORDING to a new study by boffins in Iran, flowers in vases filled with urine will last twice as long as those in ordinary water.

Which should make for some wonderful conversations at dinner parties about the stunning array of blooms in the middle of the table.

Probably best not to go into too much detail about the fertiliser for the home-grown potatoes though.



Joyce, by Tracy Watkins-Smythe



Explore from Tracy Watkins-Smythe



'A Mosquito' by fisherman Michael Scott



Singer Tony Christie by Kristofor Green

Students click with photo award judges

The talents of Walsall College photographic students have been recognised nationally. **SALLY WALMSLEY** reports

TALENTED photography students at Walsall College are celebrating after snapping up an armful of awards for their project work.

Images including a shot of the singer Tony Christie caught the eye of judges at the competition that was run by the British Institute of Professional Photography (BIPP).

Students Michael Scott and Tracy Watkins-Smythe were awarded with first place trophies in the professional portraiture and professional fine art categories, respectively after seeing off rivals from a number of universities.

Michael, aged 62, of Walsall, took the picture titled 'A mosquito' and says it was inspired by his own experience of fly fishing in the area. While Tracy, 45, of Burntwood, said her portrait 'Joyce' is based on the theme of disadvantage being turned into an advantage.

Fruzsina Schreck and Kristofor Green were named as joint runners-up in the student category for their efforts.

Kristofor, aged 32 of Sheffield, sent a message to Tony Christie best known for his hit Is This The Way to Amarillo via his Facebook page to ask if he could do a photoshoot and was thrilled when he responded.

"Our tutor set us the difficult challenge of taking a portrait photo of a famous person and being the type of character that I am, I always try my best to complete a challenge. So I did some research about local celebrities and came across Tony Christie. I love the Amarillo song so was amazed when Tony said he would be okay with being photographed."

"Kristofor said he took a total of 30 pictures of the singer, from Lichfield, and found him very easy to work with and came up with the title 'Tony Christie finds his way to Walsall College' afterwards.



Michael Scott and Tracy Watkins-Smythe, centre, with their winning pictures along with students who have entered the Midland Regional BIPP Annual Print contest

His tutor Bryn Griffiths said: "In completing this task, Kristofor has shown a lot of passion and determination, two attributes of a great photographer and I'm confident he will have a successful career in the industry post college."

While Fruzsina, 20, who moved to Walsall from Hungary, created the 'The Way' which is a look at her favourite place in the eastern European state.

Five other students at the college, in Littleton Street West, were awarded with merit certificates at the prestigious awards ceremony held at Lee Marston Hotel, in Sutton Coldfield, in March.

These were Shane Butler, 22, of Bloxwich; Christopher Smith, who captured 'Afternoon Tea', while on a trip to the seaside in Barmouth, in Wales; Joe Till, 24, of Rushall; Jo-

sephine Stevens, 19 of Wolverhampton; and Marcella Allen, of Walsall, who has been at the college for three years.

Mother-of -four Marcella, 40, captured a clutch of images of motorcycle parts during a visit to the Norton Motorcycle base in Donnington.

"I am a motorcyclist and I like all things to do with bikes so it was dreams come true when they agreed to let me come for a visit. I took lots of photographs of various parts, such as wheels, engines and headlights.

"I am very proud of my merit. I won one last year for a photo that I had taken of a friend who modelled for me. I also enjoyed going to the award ceremony because I like to listen to the critique and take advice on flaws and how I can improve.



Afternoon Tea by Chris Smith, during a trip to Barmouth



Joint runner-up in the student category, Fruzsina Shreck's The Way - her favourite place in Hungary

"My husband Gerard and my children are very supportive of my studies. Next year I hope to progress to the degree course here at the college," she added.

The students who are studying HNC, HND and degree courses took part in the recent Midlands regional BIPP Annual Print Competition. Their tutors entered them in various categories including industrial, commercial and advertising and say they are very pleased with the results.

Walsall College head of curriculum for photography Alan Tyler said: "We are committed to working in partnership with professional bodies to ensure students gain the highest level of skills in line with industry standards, and are delighted that their talents have been recognised by the BIPP."

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Concerns aired over future of pub site

I WAS one of those who attended the meeting in Sheffield over the concerns regarding the closure of the Four Crosses pub.

Although there was an excellent attendance I suspect that quite a few people turned up over concerns regarding the already approved planning permission rather than the saving of the pub as a going concern.

This would be due to the fact that although planning permission has been approved for a number of years, a recent application by the owner to vary

the conditions, had been submitted. I cannot begin to fathom how Walsall Council planners granted permission for an elderly persons rest home to be incorporated into a public house with a lam licence in the first place.

However, the further application to vary the type of resident i.e. disabled, but not rehabilitation for drug or alcohol dependency, seems reasonable enough, as does it seem reasonable that local residents should voice their concerns over what was being further proposed. Perhaps if communication

between owner and residents had been properly engaged there wouldn't be the sad situation we have now.

Coupled with the fact that Camra had successfully placed an Asset of Community Value (ACV) on the pub, it appears now that the owner has taken his bat and ball home. Having granted permission in the first place it is now solely in the hands of council planners to make sure this is retained as a viable public house.

M FELLOWS
Walsall

More work on roads is needed

AS the chairman of Darlaston area planning committee, before we were taken over by Walsall planning committee, we planned for the road improvements in the Bentley and Darlaston area.

We planned for the bridge improvements in Bentley Road South - the canal bridge has now been improved and work is now being carried out on the improvements to the railway bridge. We also planned for the improvements in Bentley Mill Way.

Those of us who live locally are pleased Walsall Council are carrying out our plans, but please Walsall Council now carry through our other suggestion for the area.

We need a road widening scheme at the junction of Heath Road and Bentley Road South to ease the congestion when vehicles are trying to turn into Bentley Road South. Also we need traffic filter lights.

B MADELEY MBE
Darlaston

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Wolves in the wild? A deer price to pay

THERE are some crackpots in this country of ours and we put up with their hair-brained ideas, but the latest one by Chris Packham is the best I've heard for a long time.

This wildlife 'expert' from the BBC's Spring Watch programme is saying that it would be a good idea to reintroduce wolves back into the countryside and that we humans would have to learn to live with them.

The reason he gives is that the wolves would keep down the deer population eating Scottish and English woodland as well. If these deer are so plentiful 350,000 in Scotland alone, let's not waste this valuable food source - sensible culling and the meat could be sold in butchers shops.

The idea to let wolves do the job of keeping the deer under control would need hundreds of them roaming in packs throughout the countryside. Would anyone feel safe taking their family for a day on say Cannock Chase knowing that packs of wolves were around? Chris Packham adds that the wolves have only killed a few people in America, well that's reassuring to know. So if you go down to the woods in future you may be in for a big surprise.

J WHEELER
Wednesbury

Misguided Cameron

OUR PM for the umpteenth time declares he will go to Brussels next month and obtain major concessions from the corrupt EU.

He has been told in no uncertain terms on many occasions, that he cannot expect the UK to be a special case.

Why does he continue in this forlorn cause? Is he totally delusional, or is he like his predecessors, taking the people of the UK to be easily tricked? He is definitely pro-EU, no matter what he says - I think the man doth protest too much!

R SAUNDERS,

Big boredom

IS anyone watching Big Brother? Does anyone know it's started? I think it's time for this dreary show to be axed completely. Once upon a time it was the talk of the office. Now it is boring beyond belief, full of celebrity wannabes, and does not deserve the air time it gets. Where are all the forward thinking TV execs with the ideas for the next big thing?

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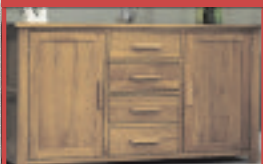
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Appeal by owner with peacocks posers



Kim Harper, from Bilston Lane, Willenhall, who is looking for a new home for her four peacocks

AN eye-catching peacock called Fred, is having to leave behind his garden home in Willenhall for pastures new.

The owner of Fred, and his mate Freda and their growing family, are looking for a new home following eight years based by the busy Bilston Lane. The pair already have two daughters Flo, two, and Florence, one, and Freda has recently laid a new batch of eggs in the grounds of the property.

But after nearly a decade of attracting the attention of passing motorists the group, known as a muster, is crying for a new home.

The birds had been cause for complaints due to their noise, and the owner Kim Harper was sent a warning letter by Walsall Council three years ago. Mrs Harper, aged 44, bought Fred from a farm on the Welsh border in

2007 along with his first partner. He has since built up a following and last year was invited to take centre stage at a religious ceremony at a West Bromwich temple.

She said: "We used to keep chickens and one day we went to a farmers' market and saw a peacock and though we would bid for it, but we were unsuccessful. Then a farmer told us he had lots of peacocks and invited us to visit. We did and bought Fred for about £150 and his first partner, but she vanished after about a year.

"We went back and got Freda. They have been giving us pleasure ever since." She added: "Freda laid at the bottom of the garden and we could tell something was going on because the others were spending a lot of time near where she was sitting. They get

very protective of the eggs. Last year out of three eggs laid, she managed to successfully rear one of those who we have called Florence.

"Unfortunately the eggs that she was sitting on earlier this week have simply vanished without a trace and we think other wildlife may have got to the nest."

The housewife said Freda in particular likes to roam away from the garden and can often be spotted by residents and drivers wandering across the neighbouring traffic lights.

In 2011, Mrs Harper was sent a warning letter by Walsall Council's environmental health department following complaints that Fred's mating calls were too noisy. Anyone who can give the birds a new home should email via kimharper33@hotmail.com



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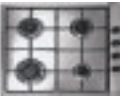
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Coventry get on board for combined councils

Worlds away at art gallery



Artist Lucy McLauchlan creates artwork to be shown in the Small Worlds exhibition at The New Art Gallery in Walsall

ARTISTS have taken inspiration from everyday life such as shops, old industrial sites and parks to form a new exhibition. The Small Worlds display is running at Walsall New Art Gallery with a focus on the changing urban environment.

Many of the works from more than a dozen artists are available to view until September 6 and the majority have been selected from Walsall's Art Collection.

The wide range of work includes that of Lucy McLauchlan, who has frequently been commissioned to create mural works in her lyrical

graphic style. She frequently sources found objects which are integrated into her work which can include animal skulls, store mannequins and empty paint pots.

Drawing fanatic Richard Forster has used a photograph he had taken in the lighting aisles of Walsall's B&Q superstore. Whilst in Walsall, he searched the local archives and came across a photograph of the town taken in 1968 which he then drew in meticulous detail.

While Cameron Galt has watercolour paintings observed from the Gallery's Roof Terrace.

MOVES to create a West Midlands Combined Authority joining Birmingham with the Black Country have been boosted after Coventry's councillors said they would sign up too.

It means the combined authority would be the largest in the country and the only one to have three cities - Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton.

The authority would be given devolved powers from Whitehall on areas like transport, skills and regeneration. Sandwell, Walsall and Dudley are all signed up too.

Sandwell Council's leader Darren Cooper, who has been leading the Black Country's negotiations on the deal, said it would also put to bed any suggestion of the authority being called Greater Birmingham.

He said: "With three cities there's no way anyone would now accept it being a Greater Birmingham. What this gives us is fantastic bargaining power. We are much stronger together and we can pool our resources to get the best possible deal from the Government. Greater Manchester has taken the lead already. We can't afford to be left behind."

Chancellor George Osborne wants the authority to have an elected region-wide 'metro mayor'.

However David Cameron said last week that there is no 'one size fits all' arrangement and that the door was open to councils to come up with their own.

It is expected that Solihull will also join the authority while an approach has been made to district councils in Warwickshire.

Greg Lowson, president of Birmingham Chamber, said: "This is an important milestone in the history of the West Midlands. Businesses in the region will fully support this move, not least because the Chancellor has made it abundantly clear that only combined authorities will be given increased powers, including those relating to economic development, transport and skills."

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Warning as airgun attackers target cats

ONE cat has died and three left badly injured in a spate of air rifle attacks in Walsall, prompting a veterinary practice to warn pet owners to be on their guard.

Shelfield-based Vets4Pets owner said four cats had been brought to the surgery over past month suffering gun wounds in the Walsall Wood and Aldridge areas of the borough.

One of the cats suffered a broken pelvis, while another two broken legs. A fourth had to be put down after being shot through the chest.

The three injured cats were given treatment and are now recovering. West Midlands Police say they are looking into the shootings.

Dr Sally Potter, who owns the practice, said: "It looks as though someone is going around and shooting these cats. It's all similar types of air gun pellets which are being used. We have reported the incidents to police."

The 34-year-old said: "The first came in during the middle of April and is from the Oak Road area."

"She had a broken leg, which required an operation, and is recovering at

By Lisa O'Brien

home." The second cat was brought to the vets from Greenwood Road, Aldridge, at the beginning of the month. Dr Potter said: "He had a fractured pelvis. The pellet was lodged in his knee."

Another male cat was treated after being brought into the surgery with a broken leg by an RSPCA officer and a fourth, from the Occupation Road area, was brought in more recently, but was put down. Dr Potter said: "He had suffered a huge amount of trauma."

RSPCA spokeswoman Harriet Cawley said the charity had received eight air gun complaints regarding cats in the West Midlands last year, but six complaints have already been lodged this year.

Postman Nathan is on song for final



Singing postman Nathan Farrell, of Bloxwich, gets set to represent the UK in the Open Mic competition

A POSTMAN will be hoping to deliver the right notes at the final of an international singing competition.

Nathan Farrell has made it to the grand final of the Open Mic International competition and will be the UK's only representative.

The 29-year-old has made it through five stages in order to reach the final - dubbed the biggest search for unsigned acts from across the world. The father-of-three, to son Connor and daughters Casey and Chloe, has auditioned for The X Factor, The Voice and Britain's Got Talent in the past but this is his biggest achievement to date.

Mr Farrell, of Ingram Road, Bloxwich, said: "This is the biggest thing that has happened in my music career - it is by far the biggest success I've had. It is a dream come true to be representing the United Kingdom, it's unthinkable. I couldn't be more proud."

Mr Farrell has been a postman for 11 years, with his rounds covering the Bloxwich and Leamore areas.

The finals are being held in London at the O2 Arena and will commence on June 1 and run through until July 31.

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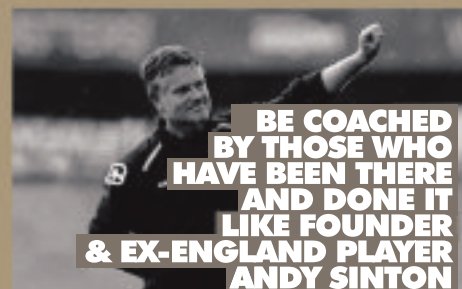
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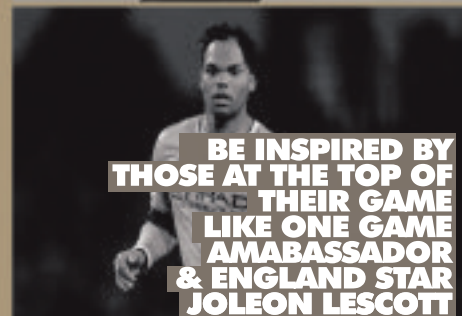


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Bloxwich pool work goes swimmingly



The steel goes up at the new Bloxwich leisure centre, indicating the impressive structure's eventual shape

WORK is forging ahead on this leisure centre as the steel skeleton of the new building takes shape. Construction company ISG took over the site in Bloxwich at the beginning of this year to build the multi-million pound site.

The main 25 metre pool and learner pools have been dug out, reinforcing steel installed and the concrete bases poured. The pool walls were due to be built last week.

The leisure centre, which is being built immediately next to the site of the old building, will have a 25-metre six lane swimming pool, teaching pool, sports hall, 100 station fitness suite,

dance studio and cafe. Walsall's leisure chief, Councillor Khizar Hussain, said work on the project was progressing very well. He said: "A lot of hard work has gone into the £24 million project, which reflects major investment from the council in partnership with Sport England.

"These two new buildings will transform leisure provision in Walsall and I'm sure help achieve our stated aim of more people, more active, more often.

"At Bloxwich, all major ground works are now complete and we've put up around 50 per cent of the steel frame along with the concrete lift

shifts." He said work on a second new leisure centre at Oak Park, in Walsall Wood, was also progressing well.

Councillor Hussain added: "At Oak Park, groundworks are nearing completion and the lift shafts were installed earlier this month. We've almost completed the new car park."

When completed, the new leisure centre will also boast a 25m pool, 100 station fitness suite, two squash courts, cafe and an artificial pitch. The existing Oak Park building will remain open and will be demolished once work is complete. Both centres are on course to be completed next summer.

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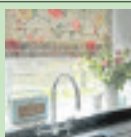
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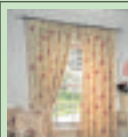
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Students inclined to take on challenge



Students, from left, Ross Green, Jamie Walker, Alex Owen, Isaac Clark, Vishnu Patel, Farrell Burley, Ben Kirk

STUDENTS are gearing up for a gruelling 24-hour challenge to raise money for charity. A group of 20 public services students from Walsall College will be taking on the national Three Peaks Challenge in June.

It will see them climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon – covering 25 miles in the space of just one day.

As part of their preparation, students organised an event at the college where they collectively walked the equivalent distance of 25 miles on an inclined treadmill.

The trek will raise money for Midlands Air Ambulance and Ward 19

at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital. Representative from the charities were also invited to the event at the college, where the budding mountaineers raised awareness of their mission and encouraged staff and fellow students to pledge donations.

Walsall College's public services lecturer Adam Comery, who has previously completed the challenge himself, said: "From my own experience I know that climbing the three highest mountains in the UK consecutively is no easy feat so we are ensuring the students are fully prepared and have put into place specific training and

exercise routines." Level Three public services student, Viktorija Gaigalaite said: "I'm really looking forward to the challenge as I've not done anything like this before. We've all been putting in a lot of extra training as the climb will be a real physical test for us. It's good to have a goal to aim for so we are determined to complete the challenge in less than 24 hours."

It is a popular misconception that the three mountains involved in the challenge are the three highest in Britain. More than 100 peaks in Scotland are higher than Scafell Pike and 56 higher than Snowdon.

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Trysull & Seisdon WI

NEXT month is the flower festival at Trysull and it was decided that the club will make a donation to the church. Also on June 4, it is the Centennial AGM from the Royal Albert Hall, which will be transmitted to the council offices at Codsall. The day will include a buffet lunch.

The WI is planning to hold an open afternoon on Wednesday, September 16 as part of the centennial celebrations, so that people can come along and learn about the WI.

Trysull & Seisdon WI is celebrating its 85th anniversary this year and members are invited to afternoon tea at Dunsley Hall, Kinver on Saturday June 20.

Speaker was Jacqui Johnson from Keepers Lane Garden Centre, a family run concern, which has been in business for 20 years.

Jacqui brought various plants along and demonstrated how to make up a hanging basket.

She explained the importance of using a good quality compost and keeping the baskets and tubs well watered and fed during flowering.

Doreen Walker had a go at making up a basket, which was entered into the raffle and won by Margaret Farquharson. At the end of the demonstration there was an opportunity to buy some of the plants.

The next meeting is on Thursday July 9 when the group will hear Peter Taunton talking about being a town crier. The competition is a hell.

Ladies hear Wiggin about steelworks



Margaret Homer with speaker Nigel Wiggin at the last meeting

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones welcomed members and visitors to the May Luncheon at the Kingfisher Hotel, Wallheath.

It was an excellent three-course lunch followed by a most interesting talk by Nigel Wiggan, the great grandson of the founder of Old Hall Stainless Steel. It began in Bloxwich in 1893 by two blacksmiths from the family of six sons. They made buckles for the leather trade and Nigel's grandfather William Wiggan introduced stirrups.

In 1904 they moved into an Old Salvation Army Mission Hall. The business expanded until they had a workforce of more than 500 and during the war they worked for the Ministry of Defence, but in 1984 they were

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

put out of business by cheap poor quality imports. Nigel now heads a 200-strong Old Hall Collectors Club on the internet. He was happy to value several ladies' tea sets which had been in daily use for more than 50-60 years and were still as good as new. Members could also buy quality items from the sales table at reasonable prices.

The next luncheon is on June 12 when the speaker is Ruth Lowe on Mary Quant Fashion and on July 10, Ray Sturdy will present a See and Hear Quiz.

Outing to leather museum

FOR the May outing, the ladies went to the Walsall Leather Museum.

Following a guided tour, they had the opportunity to make their own key rings, admire the beautiful locally made leather goods in the shop or spend time in the cafe over tea and cakes.

Two teams took part in the Federation Quiz. There

Yew Tree and Tame Bridge TG

is a cream tea planned by the guild for its June meeting.

The club is an afternoon guild, meeting on the first Thursday of each month in the community centre in Redwood Road, Yew Tree, just yards from the Walsall/

West Bromwich bus route. Next month the guild has also arranged a canal 'cruise' which includes another tea.

For more information about this small friendly group, telephone 01922 723346.



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The canal seen near Brownhills, as it snakes away into the distance



A coronation procession in Brownhills High Street



One of the pictures as featured in the book, of Watling Street with its telegraph poles



LNWR bus on Watling Street, from the early 1900s



A shop along Brownhills High Street, from days of old

Taking a butcher's at past Brownhills days

THE handwritten notes of a Black Country butcher have been pulled together to recall the life and times of a Walsall town.

The memoirs of Sid Pritchard, who spent all his 20th century working life on Brownhills High Street have been pulled together by historian Bill Mayo to create 'The Life and Times of Sid Pritchard'.

Sid worked in Cockram's butcher shop until it closed when the town's regeneration works began in the 1960s. He then bought his own corner shop, where he stayed until he retired.

In Mr Pritchard's own recorded notes, which have been printed as a prelude to the book, he said: "What follows is not intended a history of Brownhills but rather a recording of its image in the earlier days of the writer, born here in 1903, and who spent all his working days on its High Street."

MEMORY LANE

Report by Joe Edwards

"Working behind a shop counter offers a great opportunity to study people individually and en masse. It also teaches that life is about people rather than about things."

Bill, aged 78, from Commonsides, Brownhills said: "Sid got to know all the local people, he was a very observant, humorous character - everyone got along with him."

"He grew up in Brownhills and knew everybody in the area, he wrote memoirs on scrap pieces of paper about happenings in his life but he died before he could finish writing his memoirs."

Bill said it was quite time consuming to sort through and make sense of the notes, and enlisted the help of friend, Dave Evans.

Bill would decipher the notes while Dave would type them up. He said: "We only put it in the book what Sid wrote down, some parts may be difficult to make

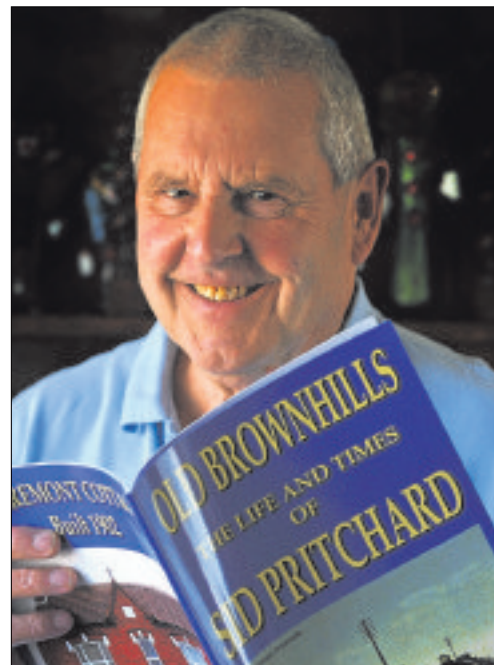
sense of but are explained in the back. I've had Sid's memoirs for around 10 years now, but over the last two months or so, with the help of Dave we have managed to really push and get the book done."

Extracts from the book include views on the appearance and characteristics of old Brownhills.

In recalling the canal he adds: "The footbridge across the canal was built by the canal company at the time the canal was cut, to maintain continuity of the footpath to Clayhanger."

"It also served as access for boatmen to the public house from the towpath on the opposite side of the canal. In the 1920s and 1930s the bridge was in a very dilapidated condition and proved amusement for youngsters who by standing at its centre could rock it considerably."

Mr Mayo's other works include Memories of Walsall Wood and Memories of Brownhills Past. The Life and Times of Sid Pritchard is priced £8 and is available in limited numbers from Brownhills Library.



Bill Mayo from Brownhills, with a copy of his latest book

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Manics mania

Rock giants
at Civic – Page 19



**Greg Davies
at Grand gala**

Page 19

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B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

The Beach Boys
Fri at 8pm, £44.40 - £48.94
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Call 0121 780 4141

Manic Street Preachers – SOLD OUT
Mon at 7pm, £35.75
Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

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Fri at 8pm, £7 - £9
The Flapper, Kingston Row,
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Rocket
Fri, Sat at 11pm, £5 - £10
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Spikes Free House
Mon at 7.30pm,
£17.50 - £18.50
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Supreme Queen
Fri at 8pm, £9 - £19
The River Rooms,
Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177

Glambuster
Sat at 8pm, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Elvis Costello
Sun at 8pm, £37.50 - £42.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

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Midlands Metal Crusade 4
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Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

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The Willows
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Call 01785 254653

JAZZ & BLUES

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Fri at 7.30pm, £17.50
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Buddy
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Fri at 1pm, 3.30pm,
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The Pyramid Texts
Fri, Sat at 8pm, £12
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
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First Stages – Statik
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The Siege
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WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

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Fri, Sat at 8pm, £10
The Old Joint Stock,
Birmingham, B2 5NY.
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Into the Woods
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £12
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Cannock, WS11 1DE.
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We'll Meet Again – Hits From The Blitz
Wed at 2.30pm, £11 - £13
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Poetry Reading
Mon at 7.30pm, £3 - £5
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1SE.
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Embraced Burlesque
Sat at 8pm, £10
Newhampton Arts Centre,
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

Madame Butterfly with Perpetuum Mobile
Tue, Wed at 7.30pm,
£10 - £27.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Supreme Fabulettes
Fri at 8pm, £19.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
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COMEDY

Jimmy Carr: Funny Business
Sat at 8pm, £25 - £28.90
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
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Call 0121 780 3333

Ruby Wax – Sane New World
Fri at 7.30pm,
£15.50 - £17.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Alexei Sayle: Listen With Alexei
Sat at 8pm, £11 - £13
mac, Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Lucy Beaumont
Fri at 8pm, £12
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. 01785 254653

OTHER EVENTS

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Tue at 7.30pm, Free
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Fri, Sat, Sun at 10am, Free
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Warwick, CV34 4QU.
Call 01926 495421

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Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Family History Buddy
Wed at 9.30am - 1pm, 1.45pm -
5pm, Free
Walsall Local History Centre,
WS2 7AS. Call 01922 721305

1600s Gardening Group
Tue at 10am - 1pm, Free
The Oak House Museum,
West Bromwich, B70 8HJ.
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Coffee Mornings
Fri, Sat, Thu at 2pm - 5pm,
£2
Wednesbury Museum &
Art Gallery, WS10 7DF.
Call 0121 556 0683

Guitar Group Sessions
Sat at 2pm, £5
Light House, Fryer Street,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Bible according to the Manics



Manic Street Preachers — drummer Sean Moore, bassist Nicky Wire and singer-guitarist James Dean Bradfield

AFTER Welsh rockers The Manic Street Preachers announced they would be playing special shows celebrating the 20th anniversary of their third album, *The Holy Bible*, the tickets sold out in minutes.

That was a milestone release for the band, and the last album featuring rhythm guitarist and lyricist Richey Edwards, who disappeared five months after the LP came out.

The Manics have sold out all those

dates including Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Monday, after releasing a deluxe box set of *The Holy Bible* including BBC recordings of their last gigs with Richey Edwards.

James Dean Bradfield, Nicky Wire and Sean Moore have released two new albums, *Rewind The Film* and *Futurology*, in little over a year. They also sold out the Civic last year, treating fans to a storming concert.

Other upcoming highlights include

Brandon Flowers of The Killers at the O2 Academy in Birmingham tonight (sold out), and The Beach Boys at the Barclaycard Arena tomorrow.

On Sunday LA's Maroon 5 will have Moves Like Jagger at the Genting Arena (NEC), while the tough get going for Billy Ocean at Birmingham Town Hall (sold out), Elvis Costello is at Birmingham Symphony Hall and Indiana's Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band play Bilston's Robin 2.



Inbetweeners star tops bill

STAND-UP comedian and *Inbetweeners* star Greg Davies will top the bill at this year's Hilarity Charity Gala, which will be a rare chance to catch the Shropshire comic in live action as he is currently busy making new TV show *Taskmaster*.

The Man Down star is being joined by Canadian comedienne Katherine Ryan in the line up for the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre show on Monday, June 8.

Hosted by the city's Central Youth Theatre, the gala was first held last year in a bid to raise badly-needed funds for the group in the wake of cuts.

It is returning with the show organised by former youth theatre member Tom Parry, one third of BBC3 sketch group Pappy's, who will also be appearing.

He also promises a special surprise guest as part of the gala which will be hosted again by Perrier award winner Daniel Kitson.

Also on the bill is Welsh comic Elis James and comedy duo Lazy Susan featuring former youth theatre member Celeste Dring.

Mr Parry said: "We are really grateful to Greg Davies for joining our line up. He hasn't appeared on stage for 18 months, so we are sure there are plenty of comedy fans out there who will be overjoyed to get the opportunity to see him perform live."

Tickets are on sale at the Grand Theatre box office on 01902 429212 priced at £21/£16 concessions.

Curious incident is at the Hippodrome

THE National Theatre's acclaimed and innovative production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, about a teenaged boy with autism who turns detective after a pet is killed, is at Birmingham Hippodrome this week, staged until Saturday, June 6.

The Reduced Shakespeare Company bring *The Complete History of Comedy (Abridged)* to Wolverhampton Grand tonight and Claire Sweeney stars in new comedy about the dating game, *Sex In Suburbia*, on Sunday. Other one-nighters at the Grand include *The Blues Brothers Experience* tomorrow and Stephen Triffitt in Frankly Sinatra on Saturday.

Siege in Bethlehem inspires play at Rep

BIRMINGHAM Repertory Theatre is hosting hard-hitting drama at its small venue The Door.

The *Pyramid Texts* is a monologue from an ageing boxer, written by Geoff Thompson and performed by Christopher Fairbank until Saturday. The *Siege*, in Arabic and English with subtitles, by The Freedom Theatre of Palestine is staged from June 4 to 6. It is drawn from an incident in May 2002 when armed men sought sanctuary from the Israeli Army in the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. Caught up in the siege were hundreds of priests, nuns and tourists. Call the box office on 0121 236 4455

Ballet version of doomed love affair

AWARD-WINNING Northern Ballet are coming to Wolverhampton to perform three productions at the Grand Theatre.

On Tuesday and Wednesday they stage *Madame Butterfly* in a double bill with *Perpetuum Mobile*. The former is the story of a doomed love affair, music by Puccini and choreographed by the company's artistic director David Nixon OBE. The latter choreographed by Christopher Hampson, of Scottish Ballet, is an athletic 17-minute piece to music by Bach. On Wednesday at 12.30 and 2.15pm they perform 40-minute children's ballet *Elves and the Shoemaker*. Call the box office on 01902 429212.

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Masterpiece from an old master — Rembrandt's The Night Watch at the Rijksmuseum



Exploring Vincent Van Gogh's art in Amsterdam



Bloemenmarkt — the floating market on the Singel canal in the Dutch capital



Amsterdam has more waterways than Brum or Venice

It's still A'dam fine city

IT is Birmingham's boast that it has more canals than Venice, 35 miles' worth compared with 26.

However, Amsterdam beats them both put together with 65 miles of waterways coiled around the centre of the Dutch capital

Walking the streets flanking those canals is one of the great pleasures of a city break to Amsterdam. The grand trio of canals the Herengracht, Keizergracht and Prinsengracht have tall thin gabled buildings, most dating from Holland's golden age in the 17th century when these were the homes and warehouses of rich merchants.

You can spend days wandering these watery thoroughfares, popping into cosy dark-wood cafes, trying nibbles at the ubiquitous cheese shops, rooting through the vintage clothes shops and getting the odd herbal whiff from the many coffee shops (or should we call them joints).

When the sun goes down the night life and thriving restaurant scene kicks in.

By Leon Burakowski

That's the perfect time to sip a Dutch gin (genever) at bars such as the atmospheric Admiraal, where the furniture is made out of old barrels.

Foodwise, Amsterdam has the lot, having been the port of a mighty trading nation. There are excellent Italian eateries, Indonesian and Thai places and an infeasible number of sugar-coated waffle shops. For the ultimate Dutch street food — besides a slippery herring — go to Vlaams Friteshuis Vleminkx. Only open in the afternoon, this hatch in the wall sells piping hot cones of delicious frites (chips), available with various tangy mayonnaises.

The Red Light District, located between tacky central main drag Damrak and Chinatown, can be avoided if you are offended by the women in the windows and the X-rated shops.

Places that you shouldn't miss include the floating flower market Bloemenmarkt on the Singel canal, near to the main shop-

ping street of Kalverstraat. When you tire of dodging cyclists, the enclosed haven-like Begijnhof is found through a modest door on Spui square. This former home for religious women includes the city's oldest buildings and the historic English Reformed Church.

Art lovers should head for Museumplein for the city's greatest galleries. The Van Gogh Museum includes hundreds of works by the tragic genius, including double sided works from when the hard-up artist could not afford to use only one side of a canvas. His swirling colourful art remains magical and the museum does a great job of walking visitors through his too-short life.

Iconic

The revamped and restored Rijksmuseum is a work of art in itself, a hugely impressive building that contains iconic works by Dutch greats Rembrandt and Vermeer.

Both museums are always very busy and should be booked in advance online to avoid queues, as should the city's most popular — and most sobering — attraction, the Anne

Frank House. This hiding place for Jewish families during the Second World War, including the teenage girl whose diary went on to touch the hearts of millions, is tiny and timed tickets help limit crowding. In Anne's room, her cut-out pictures of movie stars are still on the walls.

The excellent museum beside the secret annexe stresses that Anne was one victim among millions. Despite the queues and crowds, it should not be missed.

Major savings can be made on many admissions and public transport (including trams) by purchasing an I Amsterdam City Card. See www.iamsterdam.com for details.

For reading, I recommend **Amsterdam: A History of the World's Most Liberal City** by Russell Shorto; the story of the architectural rebirth of the Rijksmuseum is told in the handsomely illustrated **Rijksmuseum: The Building, the Collection and the Outdoor Gallery** by Cees de Jong & Patrick Spijkerman; **The Miniaturist** by Jessie Burton is an atmospheric novel set during Amsterdam's golden age.

EST 1980

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CHOICE



MOTD Live: The FA Cup BBC1, 5.15pm
Arsenal v Aston Villa (Kick-off 5.30pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the final from Wembley Stadium, where the Gunners will be trying to retain the title they won last year, and the Villans will aim to lift this trophy for the first time since 1957. Tim Sherwood has revitalised the Villa side since taking over from Paul Lambert back in February, most noticeably by placing an emphasis on the attacking side of the game, which in turn has led to star striker Christian Benteke recapturing the type of form that garnered much acclaim prior to his long-term absence through injury. Subsequent programmes are subject to change

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Gary Lineker on the Road to FA Cup Glory. (R) **2.05** FA Cup TOTP2. **2.30** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **3.25** FA Cup: The Road to Wembley. (R) **3.55** MOTD Live: FA Cup Final Build-Up. A look ahead to the 134th staging of the showpiece encounter. **5.15** MOTD Live: The FA Cup. Arsenal v Aston Villa (Kick-off 5.30pm). **7.50** BBC News. **8.00** Regional Programme. **8.05** The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Following last week's Eurovision special, Nick Knowles returns with the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers battle it out by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds gets to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. Includes the live Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gaby Roslin. **8.55** Casualty. Marcus, a young, talented strker, gets mixed up with the wrong crowd and ends up robbing an arcade run by the unscrupulous proprietor Keong. When the situation escalates, a skate-shop owner tries to stop the incident coming to a tragic end. Meanwhile, in the Emergency Department, Charlie worries about Louis's wellbeing following his return from Romania, and Lily helps a young woman – who happens to be one of Keong's employees – escape a difficult situation involving a wager placed on her ailing mother's odds of survival by her decidedly dodgy boss. **9.45** The John Bishop Show. New series. An evening of entertainment at the Hackney Empire theatre in London, featuring performances by Paul Weller, Beadyman, Trevor Noah, James Acaster and Felicity Ward. **10.30** BBC News; Weather. **10.50** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. Arsenal v Aston Villa. Highlights of the final at Wembley Stadium; National Lottery Update. **11.25** Film: Shanghai Noon. (2000) Comedy Western, starring Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson. **1.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15**

BBC2

6.05 Film: Battle Cry. (1955) **8.30** FA Cup Rewind: Classic Finals. **9.30** MOTD Kickabout: FA Cup Final. **10.00** FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments. (R) **12.00** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **1.10** Hitch. (R) **2.10** Living Famously. (R) **3.10** Film: Rear Window. (1954) Hitchcock thriller, starring James Stewart. **5.00** Flog It! (R) **6.00** Gardeners' World. Joe Swift meets a florist in Surrey who has perfected the art of kokedama – a modern take on the hanging basket. Plus, a visit to South Africa to learn more about the Cape primrose. (R) **6.30** Britain's Greatest Generation. A look at individuals who played their part in creating a more culturally diverse post-war Britain, including Earl Cameron, George Montague and Brian Rix. Last in the series. (R) **7.30** Edwardian Farm. Alex Langlands, Peter Ginn and Ruth Goodman try to take Morwellham Quay in Devon back to its Edwardian heyday, beginning by setting up home in a cottage. (R) **8.30** Dad's Army. Mainwaring and his platoon have their hands full with two German prisoners and the arrival of a suspicious Polish captain. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R) **9.00** Film: Quartet. (2012) Three former opera singers prepare for their annual concert to mark Verdi's birthday and raise funds for their retirement home. However, this year, a famous diva has joined the group, and her history with the others threatens the performance. Comedy drama, directed by Dustin Hoffman and starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Tom Courtenay, Pauline Collins and Michael Gambon. **10.35** The Many Faces of Dame Judi Dench. Charting the Oscar-winning actress's rise to fame, including a clip of an early TV appearance in Z Cars, and exploring how she achieved success on the small screen and in Hollywood. (R) **11.35** Film: The Shipping News. (2001) Drama, starring Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore and Judi Dench. **1.20** Film: Comfort and Joy. (1984) **3.00**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Doc Martin. (R) **1.40** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **2.40** Film: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. (2002) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe. **5.40** You've Been Framed! (R) **6.05** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.15** ITV News; Weather. **6.30** The Magic Show Story. Stephen Mulhern, himself an active member of the Magic Circle, embarks on an exploration of 60 years of illusions as he celebrates the art of the TV magician. Along the way, he speaks to performers past and present, including Darcy Oake, Paul Daniels, Anita Harris and Penn and Teller, he recalls headline-grabbing stunts that captured the public's imagination, including Dynamo levitating above London's Shard, and David Blaine's ice prison. He also reveals how ground-breaking performers such as David Nixon and Tommy Cooper were among the first to bring magic to the masses via the medium of TV, and investigates how the typical illusionist has transformed from the tuxedoed man pulling a rabbit from his hat, into the hip, young street magicians now finding fame in a new millennium. **7.30** Ninja Warrior UK. The grand final of the contest, in which the most successful contestants must ascend Mount Midoriyama one last time before the UK's first Ninja Warrior is named. Last in the series. **8.30** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man. (2012) Premiere. Superhero adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield and Rhys Ifans. **11.10** ITV News; Weather. **11.25** Film: TT: Closer to the Edge. (2011) Documentory following the annualist Trophry motorcycle race held on the Isle of Man, which carries a reputation for danger, with riders frequently being killed. **1.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Transylvania Ultra Marathon. **7.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park, York and Newmarket. **4.15** Film: Pride and Prejudice. (2005) Period drama, starring Keira Knightley. **6.40** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Inside Jaguar: Making a Million Pound Car. Mark Evans follows the creation of the Lightweight E-type, the manufacturer's most expensive car ever, finding out exactly what goes into building a vehicle fit for a millionaire. Plans were made for 18 of the cars to be built back in 1963, but only 12 were ever produced – and now another six are being put together by specialist engineers to finally finish the project. However, the presenter discovers that not everyone is happy with the situation. (R) **8.00** Walking Through History: Wigan Pier. Tony Robinson embarks on a township exploration of industrial engineering along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, tracing the story of its chaotic construction. (R) **9.00** Film: The Woman in Black. (2012) A lawyer tormented by the death of his wife is sent to a remote village to port deceased client Alice Drablow's affairs in order. The locals are suspicious of outsiders and determined to keep the area's tragic history a secret, and the late Mrs Drablow's isolated house seems to be haunted by a vengeful spirit that seems hell-bent on redressing a decades-past grievance. Horror based on Susan Hill's novel, with Daniel Radcliffe and Ciaran Hinds. **10.55** Film: The X Files: I Want to Believe. (2008) Paranomal investigators Mulder and Scully come out of hiding to help the FBI investigate sinister experiments. Sci-fi thriller sequel, with David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson. **1.00** Jimmy Carr: Telling Jokes. (R) **1.55** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.05** Grand Designs Australia. (R) **5.00** Phil: Secret Agent

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. **10.50** The Hotel Inspector: Abroad. (R) **11.50** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.45** Film: Corrina, Corrina. (1994) Family drama set in the 1950s, starring Whoopi Goldberg. **3.00** Film: Columbo: Murder, Smoke and Shadows. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.05** Film: Columbo: Dagger of the Mind. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Honor Blackman. **6.50** 5 News Weekend. **7.00** Cricket on 5. England v New Zealand. Highlights of the second day in the second Test of the two-match series, which takes place at Headingley. England have been on a downward spiral in this format of the game after reaching the summit of the ICC Test rankings for the first time in 1999, and entered this series as the fifth-ranked nation, which is in contrast to New Zealand, who recently rose to third and were looking to continue their good form. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes. **8.00** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. Dave Spike and Zoe Lyons introduce another compilation of internet videos, with this edition featuring silly-craz hamsters, tortoises with attitude problems, foul-mouthed parrots and a water-skiing squirrel. There are also clips of a pet pig that is an Instagram star, and a cat who caused an online sensation when its owner discovered its nose worked as a remote control for the bedside lamp. (R) **9.00** Big Brother: Timebomb. Friday's highlights, including housemates' reactions to the latest eviction, revealing how the departure has affected the remaining contestants – and whether the outcome of the public vote has anyone else fearing for their place in the competition. **10.00** Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2014. Countdown of the biggest showbusiness stories and scandals of the year, from Solange Knowles attacking Jay-Z in a lift to Russell Brand's attempt to start a revolution. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother: Timebomb. (R) **4.00** Furious & Funny;

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.00** FA Cup's 50 Greatest Moments **10.00** Happy Valley **11.00** Family Guy **1.15** Murder in Successville **1.45** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment **2.15** Festivals, Sex & Suspicious Parents **3.15** Russell Howard's Good News **3.45** In Deep **4.00** Close **BBC Four**
7.00 Blue Note: A Story of Modern Jazz **8.30** Jazz 625: The Dave Brubeck Quartet **9.00** 1964 **11.00** Kenny Rogers: Cards on the Table **12.00** Country Queens at the BBC **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.40** Bullseyes and Beer – When Darts Hit Britain: Timeshift **2.40** Timeshift: The Golden Age of Coach Travel **3.40** Close **ITV2**
11.55 Film: The Little Vampire (2000) **1.50** Mr Bean **2.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.20** Britain's Got Talent **4.55** Britain's Got Talent Results **5.25** Film: Jurassic Park (1993) **8.00** Film: Something Borrowed (2011) **10.15** Film: Troy (2004) **1.25** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **1.55** Crazy Beaches **2.40** The Hot Desk: Kelly Clarkson **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
12.05 Film: Housesitter (1992) **2.10** Wycliffe **3.15** Film: Columbo: Double Exposure (1973) **4.50** Lewis **6.55** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Inspector Wexford **11.40** Wire in the Blood **12.45** Ghostboat **2.50** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
9.00 Film: The Dead Pool (1988) Action thriller sequel, starring Clint Eastwood. **10.55** Premiership Rugby Union **11.55** Film: Mortal Kombat (1995) **2.00** Minder **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
11.00 New Girl **12.00** Melissa & Joey **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.00** Film: 17 Again (2009) **5.00** Made in Chelsea **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Haywire (2011) **10.50** Gogglebox **12.55** The Big Bang Theory **2.25** 2 Broke Girls **2.50** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Rules of Engagement **4.20** New Girl **4.45** Melissa & Joey **5.10** Make It or Break It **Film4**
11.00 Marmaduke (2010) **1.00** Home Alone 3 (1997) **3.05** Ice Age (2002) **4.40** Mirror Mirror (2012) **6.50** Mission: Impossible (1996) **9.00** Star Trek (2009) **11.30** Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2011) **1.20** No Country for Old Men

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CHOICE



Fiona Bruce

Antiques Roadshow
BBC1, 8pm

Fiona Bruce and the team visit Ashton Court in Bristol, where they examine a piece of street art by Banksy in a local doorway. Expert Rupert Maas reveals the difficulty of valuing graffiti by an artist whose identity is a closely guarded secret. Other finds include a 19th-century automaton that can smoke a cigarette, a nautilus shell engraved with a picture of the city's suspension bridge, a globe clock that provides a surprise to its owner and a posset pot that may have origins closer to home than expected.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.25** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** VE Day 70: A Party to Remember. **2.30** Live Rowing. **1.50** Athletics. **2.50** Live Triathlon. The ITU World Triathlon Series meeting from Hyde Park, London.

6.00 Hotel India. The Taj Mahal Palace's deputy general manager Parveen oversees Christie's first-ever auction of Indian art in its country of origin – and the hope is that Mumbai's super-rich will break a world sales record.

6.35 BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. The team visits the Channel Islands, where Matt Baker investigates the legacy of naturalist Gerald Durrell. Ellie Harrison helps out with an unusual habitat restoration on the site of an old holiday camp and discovers Guernsey's history of tomato growing. John Craven visits a cream dairy on Sark, Charlotte Smith finds out about a resilient weed, and Adam Henson encounters woolly pips. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Ashton Court in Bristol, where they examine a piece of street art by Banksy in a local doorway. Expert Rupert Maas reveals the difficulty of valuing graffiti by an artist whose identity is a closely guarded secret. Other finds include a 19th-century automaton that can smoke a cigarette, a nautilus shell engraved with a picture of the city's suspension bridge, a globe clock that provides a surprise to its owner and a posset pot that may have origins closer to home than expected.

9.00 Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell. Strange arrives in Spain to show Lord Wellington how he might use his magical talents to fight the Napoleonic armies, while Mr Norrell battles to keep his secrets hidden.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Live at the Apollo. Danny Bhoj hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Miles Jupp and Lee Nelson. (R)

11.15 Film: Buried. (2010) Thriller, starring Ryan Reynolds.

12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **6.30** FA Cup Rewind: Classic Finals. **7.30** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **11.30** Live Rowing. **1.50** Athletics. **2.50** Live Triathlon. The ITU World Triathlon Series meeting from Hyde Park, London.

6.00 Hotel India. The Taj Mahal Palace's deputy general manager Parveen oversees Christie's first-ever auction of Indian art in its country of origin – and the hope is that Mumbai's super-rich will break a world sales record.

7.00 A Very British Airline. Operations manager Kevin Mackenzie discusses the challenges of working out of Heathrow and two trainee airline pilots reach the end of their course. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. A Hull estate is evacuated so the city's tallest building can be demolished, and Debbie Burns takes on a £750million renovation project at Birmingham New Street. Last in the series.

9.00 Armada – 12 Days to Save England. Dan Snow tells the story of the naval battle in 1588 that could have led to the conquest of Britain, and examines how the prospect of invasion affected Elizabeth I's royal court.

10.00 Rev. Alex gives birth in dramatic circumstances, and Adam teams up with a local imam to help save a playground. Comedy, starring Tom Hollander and Olivia Colman. (R)

10.30 Sir Stanley Matthews: The Wizard of Wembley. Documentary about the 1953 FA Cup Final between Blackpool and Bolton Wanderers, in which Stanley Matthews sealed his reputation as one of England's greatest ever footballers.

11.00 Film: Frost/Nixon. (2008) Drama, starring Frank Langella.

12.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.50**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The Unforgettable Frankie Howard. (R) **1.10** Film: Junior. (1994) Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **3.15** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.15** Ninja Warrior UK. (R)

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.40 Celebrity Squares. Life's Too Short star Warwick Davis hosts a revival of the classic game show originally presented by Bob Monkhouse. Jimmy Carr is in the centre square, with Tracy-Anne Oberman, Matt Forde, Sarah-Jane Crawford, Marek Larwood, Joe Swash and Kerry Goddman joining regulars Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson in the celebrity grid this week.

7.30 Britain's Got Talent Final. Ant and Dec host the conclusion of this year's talent search, as the last few acts to make it through the previous week's five semi-finals perform once more for judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon. It's then over to the British public, as viewers' votes decide who should be this year's champion, winning a prize of £250,000 and a chance to perform in this year's Royal Variety Show. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 The Nation's Favourite Queen Song. The legendary rock band's 20 greatest hits, as decided by the public, featuring interviews with Brian May, Roger Taylor and celebrity fans. Matt Lucas narrates. (R)

11.40 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith is joined by David Flatman to present highlights of the Premiership final from Twickenham, where this year's champions were decided.

12.30 The Store. Home shopping. **2.30** Motorsport UK. High-speed coverage from around the country. **3.20** ITV News; Weather. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** Caterham Motorsport. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** Film: Tooth Fairy. (2010) Family comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson. **4.30** Location, Location. (R) **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Speed with Guy Martin. Speed freak Guy Martin embarks on a mission to fly using muscle power alone, by building the world's fastest human-powered aircraft. He heads to Southampton University where, in 1961, Derek Pigott became the first man to fly under his own power. Guy teams up with a group of engineers from the same university to build a plane that Guy will ride like a bicycle – will he manage to fly into the record books? (R)

8.00 For the Love of Cars. Philip and Ant take a 100-mile road trip from Bristol to the Devonshire coast in a VW camper van, and reveal how motoring was revolutionised by the air-cooled engine used in this vehicle and several other iconic cars. Along the way, they meet a car collector who owns seven Citroën 2CVs and come to the aid of a driver who wants their help restoring his treasured VW Beetle so it can be sold at auction.

9.00 Film: Shutter Island. (2010) Premiere. A US marshal, traumatised by his past, heads to a hospital for the criminally insane on a remote island to investigate the disappearance of a woman who murdered her children. As the case unfolds, he begins to suspect the doctors are hiding something – and that a grisly fate awaits all the patients on a sinister ward. Martin Scorsese's mystery thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo and Ben Kingsley.

11.40 Film: Fracture. (2007) A man shoots his wife, confesses to himself in court, where he demolishes the prosecution's case. Thriller, starring Anthony Hopkins.

1.40 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Phil: Secret

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Mio Mao. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.45** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.15** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **8.20** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.45** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **11.45** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **12.45** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **1.45** Film: See Spot Run. (2001) Comedy, starring David Arquette. **3.40** Film: Land of the Lost. (2005) Comedy adventure, starring Will Ferrell. **5.25** Film: Robin Hood. (1973) Disney animation, with the voices of Terry-Thomas and Peter Ustinov.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v New Zealand. Highlights of the third day in the second Test of the two-match series, which takes place at Headingley, Yorkshire opener Adam Lyth will be hoping to put in a good performance in front of his home crowd after making his England debut in the First Test, while his county teammates Gary Ballance and Joe Root will also look to impress. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.

8.00 Film: Joe Kidd. (1972) A bounty hunter is asked to capture a Mexican rebel, and accepts the job after the outlaw's men attack his own ranch. But when he witnesses the cruel methods used by his employer, he resolves to bring the fugitive to a fair trial rather than let him face rough justice. Western, starring Clint Eastwood, Robert Duval and John Saxon. Edited for language and violence.

9.50 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Big Brother: Timebomb. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, diary room visits and chit-chat in the aftermath of the recent eviction.

11.00 Film: In Time. (2011) Sci-fi thriller, with Justin Timberlake.

1.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** Gotham. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear. **8.05** Don't Tell the Bride. **9.00** Film: Leave to Remain. (2013)
10.30 Family Guy. **11.15** American Dad!
11.35 Family Guy. **12.30** Festivals, Sex & Suspicious Parents. **1.30** Russell Howard's Good News. **2.00** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment. **2.30** Murder in Successville. **3.00** Don't Tell the Bride. **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Benjamin Britten on Camera. **8.00** Nature's Great Events. **10.00** Metamorphosis – The Science of Change. **11.00** BB King – The Life of Riley. **12.40** When Pop Ruled My Life: The Fans' Story. **1.40** I'm in a Boy Band! **2.40** Jazz Divas Gold. **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.55 Take Me Out. **1.10** Take Me Out – The Gossip. **1.50** Film: Kangaroo Jack. (2003) **3.35** Film: Cats & Dogs. (2001) **5.20** Film: Freaky Friday. (2003) **7.25** Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park. (1997) **10.00** Britain's Got More Talent. **11.00** Film: The Fast and the Furious. (2001) **1.10** Crazy Beaches. **1.35** Viral Tap. **2.10** Teleshopping. **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.25 Inspector Morse. **2.40** Film: The Nun's Story. (1959) **5.40** Inspector Morse. **8.00** Lewis. **10.00** A Touch of Frost. **12.10** Film: The Pianist. (2002) **2.50** Ghostboat. **4.00** ITV3 Nightscreen. **4.05** Emmerdale. **ITV4**

9.00 Cycling: Tour Series. **10.00** Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) **12.10** Film: Village of the Damned. (1995) **2.15** Nitro Circus. **2.40** Movies Now. **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen. **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 Made in Chelsea. **1.00** New Girl. **2.00** How I Met Your Mother. **3.00** The Goldbergs. **4.00** The Big Bang Theory. **5.00** Film: Cleopatra. (1959) **6.55** The Big Bang Theory. **10.00** Gogglebox. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **2.00** Rude Tube. **2.55** Virtually Famous. **3.30** The Cleveland Show. **3.50** Hollywoods

Film4
11.00 Warlords of Atlantis. (1978) **1.00** First Daughter. (2004) **3.10** A Monster in Paris. (2011) **5.05** The Spiderwick Chronicles. (2008) **6.55** Terminal Velocity. (1994) **9.00** Byzantium. (2012) Vampire horror, with Gemma Arterton and Saoirse Roman. **11.20** Shell. (2012) Drama, starring Chloe Pirrie. **1.10** The General's

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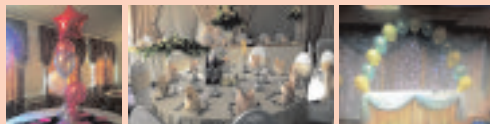
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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Carry On Cruising, ITV, 11.40pm
The captain of a cruise ship bound for the Mediterranean is less than impressed when five of his regular shipmates are replaced at the last minute. Despite their best efforts to earn his respect and an eagerness to please, the new recruits seem doomed to cause chaos whatever they do. Comedy, starring Sid James, Kenneth Williams, Liz Fraser and Kenneth Connor. (1962)

TUESDAY
White Oleander, BBC1, 11.35pm
A 15-year-old girl's happy life is thrown into upheaval when her mother is sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering her lover. Astrid spends the rest of her adolescence drifting from one foster home to another, but her mother remains a constant influence in her life. Drama based on Janet Fitch's novel, starring Alison Lohman, Michelle Pfeiffer, Renee Zellweger, Robin Wright and Billy Connolly. (2002)



Eagle Eye, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.15pm

WEDNESDAY
Eagle Eye, BBC1, 11.15pm
Two strangers find themselves on the run from the authorities when they receive mysterious phone calls informing them their lives are in danger. They are forced to follow the instructions of a woman who is tracking their every move, while at the same time trying to discover who is behind the conspiracy. Thriller, starring Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan, Rosario Dawson and Michael Chiklis. (2008)

THURSDAY
Hannah's Law, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. A female bounty hunter goes in search of the outlaws who killed her parents, assisted by a young Wyatt Earp. Western, with Sara Canning and John Pyper-Ferguson. (2012)

FRIDAY
Music and Lyrics, ITV, 10.40pm
A washed-up pop idol seeks the help of the woman who looks after his plants to write a song for a teenage music star. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant, Drew Barrymore, Brad Garret and Kristen

Series proves it still has a winning formula

While The X Factor may appear to be on borrowed time, some people are saying the show's creator Simon Cowell is losing his golden touch.

And the likes of Red or Black? and Grease Is the Word were hardly as successful at his Idol, X Factor and Got Talent franchise, were they?

Nevertheless, the latter of that smash-hit TV trio continues to go from strength to strength.

It has now spawned spin-offs in over 50 countries and the British incarnation still looks just as fresh and exciting as it did when it made its debut back in 2007.

Tonight, the curtain falls on the ninth series of the talent search, and it has been one of the best so far, with a plethora of rough showbiz diamonds taking their chance to sparkle.

As well as the usual deluded talentless performers being given their 15 (well two) minutes of fame, and providing Ant and Dec with priceless comedy material, over the last eight weeks viewers have witnessed some remarkable acts taking to the stage.

Among those who have beat the buzzer and got the magic four yeses were a group of dads dancing to hip-hop music, a contortionist from Essex, a Russian trampolining artist, a burlesque dance troupe from Hull, and a comedy hypnotist with a pet dog.

Although these acts have added variety, it seems most of the major contenders for the prize of £250,000 and the chance to perform at this year's Royal Variety Show will once again be singers and dancers.

Crooner Calum Scott, who was the beneficiary of Cowell's Golden Buzzer, and Siberian shadow dance sensations UDI were the front runners with the bookies before last week's semi-finals got underway.

They were closely followed by Revelation Avenue, choir Cor Glennaethwy, operatic singer Emma Jones and five-piece London dance act Boyband. However, don't be surprised if there's an upset tonight.

After all, Scottish singer Susan Boyle was a massive odds-on favourite back in 2009, and ended up losing out to dance group Diversity.

Boyle has proved to be somewhat of an anomaly in the show, as she's arguably the only runner-up who has managed to carve out a lucrative post-BGT career.

So with the success of this series, will the awesome foursome of Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon be back for the show's 10th-anniversary run next year?

There have been rumours that Walliams may be about to quit the panel, but in a recent interview with Radio Times, the comedian seems quite happy with his role, and was still reveling in the fact that he was voted the public's Favourite Judge at the National Television Awards in February.

Nevertheless, despite Walliams' NTA award and the struggles of the X Factor, the show's creator Cowell is in no doubt who is still the main man.

"Mine is the opinion people want to hear," he boasts.

"It's annoying but true," Walliams adds.

And with the ongoing success of BGT, who can argue?



Ant and Dec host Britain's Got Talent Final, Sunday, ITV, 7.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Man Down
Channel 4, 10pm
Greg Davies' wonderfully silly sitcom returns for a new series. The last time we saw his alter ego, Dan, he was coming to terms with his father's death in a well-received Christmas special that managed to raise a smile while providing a tribute to the man who played the crazy patriarch, Rik Mayall. Despite his absence from the series, Mayall continues to loom large, as Dan spends much of this run attempting to step from out of his dad's shadow and finally grow up – a task which is far easier said than done for a fortysomething with the mental age younger than that of the children he teaches. Meanwhile, his friends Jo and Brian are otherwise occupied with mysterious projects of their own.

TUESDAY
The Syndicate
BBC1, 9pm
New series. The return of Kay Mellor's drama, this time following the staff at a Scarborough manor house whose numbers come up on the lottery - making them instantly richer than the family they serve 'upstairs'. It's all hands on deck at Hazlewood Manor in preparation for the annual shoot, although with the Lord's health failing and debts rising, the

workers are struggling to keep up appearances on a shoestring budget. The future of the house might be in jeopardy, but gardener Godfrey isn't too worried – he has been working on his lottery formula for years and he thinks he has finally cracked it.

The Secret Life of Your House
ITV, 9pm
Viewers may need a strong stomach for this documentary in which George McGavin infests a house with thousands of animals normally thought of as pests in an experiment designed to give an insight into the ecology that exists under people's noses. After introducing creatures such as spiders, mice and cockroaches to the property, George, who even sleeps between bug-infested sheets for the night, lets them loose for a month to find out what they get up to.

WEDNESDAY
Long Lost Family
ITV, 9pm
Hankies at the ready – Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell are back with the most tear-jerking show on the telly, as they reunite more people with long-lost loved ones. Among tonight's lucky and

emotional beneficiaries are Susan and Chris, who were childhood sweethearts in 1962 when they discovered they were expecting their first child. Too young to care for the baby themselves, their parents stepped in and arranged for their son to be adopted. Now, having just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, they are hoping to find him. Meanwhile, in Poole, Dorset, former soldier Paul Wright reveals how he was forced to leave his girlfriend and baby daughter in West Germany when he was posted back to the UK in 1985. Eventually losing touch with his family, he now wants to meet up with his daughter and explain the reasons for his decision.

THURSDAY
Dementiaville
Channel 4, 9pm
It's been predicted that in the future, one in three people in the UK will be affected by dementia. Yet despite this, it remains a complex disease with no known cure. This new three-part series aims to offer an

insight into the illness by exploring the idea of memory, and also looking at how different people deal with it. The first edition visits Poppy Lodge, a care home which takes a controversial approach to dementia. As the condition frequently destroys recent memories while leaving some older ones in tact, the staff have decided that rather than trying to bring the residents back to reality, they will instead help them embrace their own perceptions by recreating moments from their past.

FRIDAY
Holy Grail Conspiracy: Secrets of the Knights Templar
Channel 5, 8pm
This fascinating series, which explores some of the events depicted in the Bible and tries to work out whether they could really have happened, concludes with an insight into one of the most secret societies ever formed – the Knights Templar. Hugely powerful during the Middle Ages, it is said to have owned the Holy Grail, know Christ's bloodline, have discovered the New World a century before Columbus and carried out numerous good works while promoting religious faith. But, as this programme reveals, after falling foul of France's King Philip IV in the 14th century, the Templars were declared to be devil-worshippers and chunned

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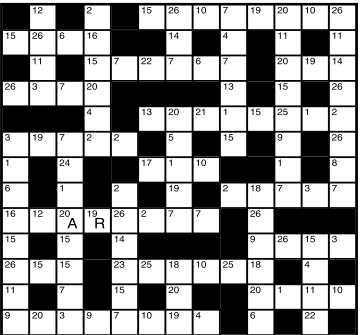
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

D	I	O	Y	W	K	M	G	S	U	R	E	T
Z	H	A	F	J	X	C	V	N	P	Q	L	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

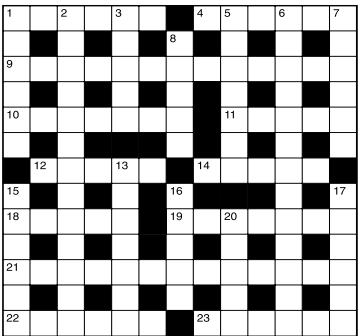
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Be in no hurry and waddle around (6)
- To reveal hesitation spells downfall (6)
- Telephone for legal aid? (4,3,6)
- It's obvious I'd enter the contest (7)
- Put oil on an eel that has been prepared (5)
- A trap set outside a second time (5)
- New lamps put into service (5)
- Game many take to (5)
- One illness after another (7)
- A tree leaning over a ramp, perhaps (8,5)
- Stop in a crooked side street (6)
- Fresh petals set out on the table (6)

Down

- Clipped at the quayside (6)
- They support the game, perhaps (7,6)
- Turner writes articles (5)
- Not the sort of water-pipes common in most houses (7)
- It's thick-skinned, colourless and unwanted (5,8)
- Staggered, but got in line (6)
- He's around at the preliminary races (5)
- Examples of the more subtle type of humour that is found in clubs (7)
- Fighting together and all about to die (6)
- There may be a catch in it (5)
- People mending pipes? (6)
- Part of a jacket to copy in a fifty-fifty arrangement (5)



Quick Clues:

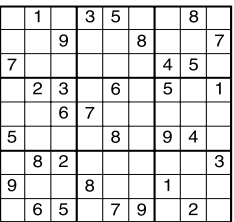
Across

- Smoother (6)
- Boon (6)
- Arrangement (13)
- Tackle (7)
- Follow (5)
- Move quickly (5)
- Composition (5)
- Scope (5)
- Three-pronged spear (7)
- Uneasiness (13)
- Stable (6)
- Health (6)

Down

- Trifling (6)
- Calm (13)
- Extensive (5)
- Replies (7)
- Exaggeration (13)
- Rota (6)
- Dwelling (5)
- Went to bed (7)
- Fondle (6)
- Vapour (5)
- Figurine (6)
- Outcome (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	7	6	2	1	8	4	3	9
2	9	8	6	4	3	1	5	7
1	4	3	9	7	5	6	2	8
9	2	1	8	6	4	5	7	3
6	8	3	5	2	7	9	1	4
4	3	7	5	9	1	2	6	8
7	5	2	4	3	6	8	9	1
3	6	9	1	8	2	7	4	5
8	1	4	7	5	9	3	6	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Candlesticks; 7 Ember; 8 Plain; 9 Tug; 10 Leastwise; 11 Garage; 12 Relief; 15 Treatment; 17 Air; 18 Earth; 19 Oute; 21 Prophet of woe. Down: 1 Come together; 2 Lob; 3 Stream; 4 Impatient; 5 Khaki; 6 Interference; 7 Eager; 10 Lighthouse; 13 Inane; 14 Become; 16 Error; 20 Too. QUICK - Across: 1 Make the grade; 7 Light; 8 Grain; 9 Inn; 10 Virulence; 11 Ground; 12 Orders; 15 Austriety; 17 Pen; 18 Learn; 19 Early; 21 Invertebrate. Down: 1 Marriageable; 2 Tag; 3 Entire; 4 Regularly; 5 Drain; 6 Unreasonable; 7 Lento; 10 Vengeance; 13 Empty; 14 Direct; 16 Stain; 20 Rub.

Quiz

- What is acrophobia?
- Who played Hannibal Lecter in The Silence of the Lambs?
- Who was the Roman God of wine?
- Which composer's last words were reputedly 'I shall hear in heaven'?
- Who was the arch rival of Dan Dare?
- What is the symbol of the element sodium?
- What is the capital of the Canadian province of British Columbia?
- In what year was the QEII launched?
- Which Old Testament book comes between Joshua and Ruth?
- In which U.S. city is Logan airport?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 45; 2 Chile; 3 Cauliflower; 4 Jubilee;

5 Lundy; 6 Forest of Arden; 7 Arno; 8 Bob

Dylan; 9 Toto; 10 Mars.

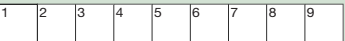
Niner: POLYNESIA

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5637
4128
199

gives a bird,
gives an animal,
gives another animal.



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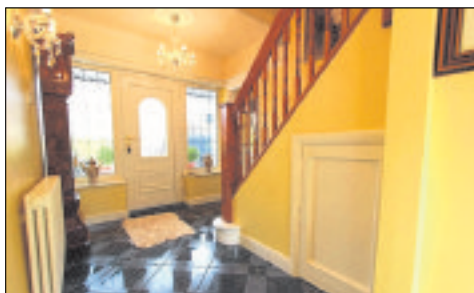
THIS distinctive detached family residence in Rookery Road, Wolverhampton includes impressive accommodation including a stylish kitchen and an elegant living room and dining room.

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◆ Three bedrooms
◆ Fully double glazed
◆ Gas central heating
◆ In need of improvement/refurbishment
◆ EPC rating E (45)
GUIDE PRICE £90,000 to £110,000



LOT 2
RAVENHILL WARD SOCIAL CLUB, 101 ARMITAGE ROAD, RUGELEY, WS15 1DF
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Detached purpose built social club
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◆ Overlooking canal at rear
◆ Total gross internal floor area 91m² or thereabouts
◆ Gas fired central heating installed (Not tested) ◆ All windows double glazed
GUIDE PRICE £80,000+



LOT 3
207 CANNOCK ROAD, CHADSMOOR, CANNOCK, WS11 5DD
FREEHOLD RETAIL/RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT
◆ Let on lease producing £8,500 P.A.
◆ Prominently located retail unit with flat above
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◆ EPC rating D (91)
GUIDE PRICE £85,000+



LOT 4
246 BRADBURY LANE, HEDNESFORD, WS12 4EP
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT CURRENTLY PRODUCING £4,160 P.A.
◆ Semi detached house
◆ some double glazing
◆ In need of some improvement
◆ Ideal buy to let
◆ EPC rating G (13)
GUIDE PRICE £40,000+



LOT 5
339 LONGFORD ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 1NG
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Semi detached bungalow
◆ Two bedrooms
◆ Gas central heating
◆ Fully double glazed
◆ Gardens
◆ EPC rating D (61)
GUIDE PRICE £90,000 - £110,000



LOT 6
48 PENDLE HILL, HEDNESFORD, WS12 1LW
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Semi detached former style house
◆ Two/three bedrooms
◆ Gas fired central heating (Not tested)
◆ Part double glazed
◆ In need of comprehensive refurbishment
◆ EPC rating E (39)
GUIDE PRICE £120,000 - £140,000



LOT 7
LAND TO WEST OF REDMOOR ROAD, GENTSHAW
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Pasture land
◆ Extending to 1.00 acre or thereabouts
◆ Crossed by Shaw Brook
◆ Road frontage and gated access from Redmoor Road
GUIDE PRICE £10,000 - £20,000



LOT 8
23 LITTLEWOOD ROAD, CHESLYN HAY, WS6 7EU
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Attractive semi detached cottage
◆ Standing on good size corner plot
◆ Ample off road parking
◆ Gas fired central heating
◆ Predominantly double glazed
◆ In need of some repair and improvement
◆ EPC rating E (44)
GUIDE PRICE £135,000+



LOT 9
SITE OF FORMER ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, BOW STREET, RUGELEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Freehold residential development site
◆ Good sized site having the benefit of planning permission for the erection of a terrace of 3 houses together with one detached house
◆ Site area 0.183 Acres or thereabouts as called by Promap software
GUIDE PRICE £120,000 - £150,000



LOT 10
3 CROSS STREET, CHESLYN HAY, WS6 7DT
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT PRODUCING £3,895 P.A.
◆ larger than average inner terraced house
◆ Gas central heating
◆ Predominantly double glazed
◆ EPC rating F (33)
GUIDE PRICE £70,000



LOT 11
5 CROSS STREET, CHESLYN HAY, WS6 7DT
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT PRODUCING £3,893 P.A.
◆ Larger than average end terraced house
◆ Gas central heating
◆ Predominantly double glazed
◆ EPC rating F (35)
GUIDE PRICE £55,000



LOT 12
LAND TO REAR OF 30 TO 34 MARKET STREET, HEDNESFORD, WS12 5AE
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Residential development site
◆ With benefit of planning permission to erect four one bedroomed apartments
GUIDE PRICE £40,000 - £60,000



LOT 13
212 BRADBURY LANE, HEDNESFORD, WS12 4EP
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Semi detached house
◆ Predominantly double glazed
◆ Gas central heating
◆ In need of some improvement
◆ Ideal buy to let
◆ EPC rating D (63)
GUIDE PRICE £40,000+



LOT 14
60 SCHOOL LANE, CHASE TERRACE, WS7 1LD
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Detached house ◆ Two bedrooms
◆ Gas central heating ◆ Part double glazed
◆ Requires comprehensive refurbishment or may be suitable for redevelopment (subject to planning permission)
◆ EPC rating F (28)
GUIDE PRICE £120,000 - £150,000

Address	Wednesday 13 th , 20 th & 27 th May	Saturday 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd & 30 th May
Ravenhill Ward Social Club, 101 Armitage Road, Rugeley	10.00 a.m.	10.00 a.m.
60 School Lane, Chase Terrace	10.45 a.m.	10.45 a.m.
48 Pendle Hill, Hednesford	11.30 a.m.	11.30 a.m.
212 Bradbury Lane, Pye Green, Hednesford	12.00 p.m.	12.00 p.m.
81 Albert Street, Broomhill	12.30 p.m.	12.30 p.m.
339 Longford Road, Cannock	1.15 p.m.	1.15 p.m.
23 Littlewood Road, Cheslyn Hay	2.00 p.m.	2.00 p.m.
207 Cannock Road, Chads Moor	By Prior Appointment with Boot and Son	
3 Cross Street, Cheslyn Hay		
5 Cross Street, Cheslyn Hay		
246 Bradbury Lane, Pye Green, Hednesford		
Land to rear of 30/36 Market Street, Hednesford	By calling at site with auction catalogue to hand	
Site of former British Legion, Bow Street, Rugeley		
Land to West of Redmoor Road, Gentshaw.		

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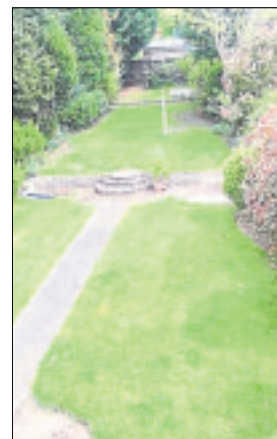
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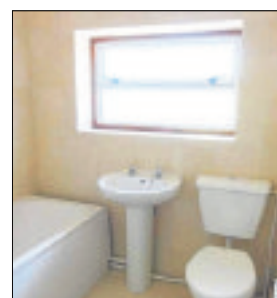
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THIS refurbished superb three-bed semi with a garage in Castlecroft Lane, Castlecroft, is available to rent unfurnished through Rogers & Partners at £680 a month.

It has a new kitchen with contemporary units and contrasting wood-effect working surfaces, a larder unit and a fully-tiled bathroom with a white suite, new flooring and a neutral decor throughout, double glazing and central heating and a lounge with wall inset fire.

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BEATON CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Lounge & Family Bathroom. Potential To Convert To Three Beds. D/G. Warm Air Heating. Front And Rear Gardens. Great BTL Or FTB.

£77,500

HADLEY HEATH

FOR SALE



PACKWOOD CLOSE, W'HALL
One Bed Town House. Comprises Of Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom And Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Front Garden, Off Road Parking Area To Side & Separate Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£82,000

BENTLEY

FOR SALE



CORNWALL PLACE, WALSALL
Two Bed Ground Floor Flat. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen & Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Paved Fore Garden & Private Garden To Rear With Brick Built Outhouse.

OIRO £85,000

BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL

FOR SALE



Immaculate Four Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Porch, Hall, 24ft Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom, W.C, Games Room. Extensive Parking, Garden & Workshop. MUST VIEW!

£289,995

NEW INVENTION

FOR SALE



ASTORIA GDNS, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Guest W.C, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner And Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Gardens To Front And Rear As Well As An Off Road Parking Area. Great FTB or BTL.

£88,500

REEDSWOOD

FOR SALE



PARKVIEW CRES, WALSALL
Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C & Family Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H. Detached Garage. Driveway To Front & Side. Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£109,995

BENTLEY

FOR SALE



MONMOUTH ROAD, WALSALL
Two Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, 26ft Sun Room & Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Extensive Off Road Parking To Fore & Enclosed Garden To Rear. MUST VIEW!

£170,000

ASHMORE PARK

FOR SALE



REYNOLDS WALK, W'FIELD
Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Entrance Hall, Lounge, Sitting Room, Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor W.C. And 1st Floor Bathroom. Requires Improvements In Parts. Gas Central Heating Throughout. Front & Rear Gardens. Off Road Parking & Garage.

£75,000

BENTLEY

FOR SALE



WESTERN AVE, WALSALL
Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Inner Hall, Kitchen, Rear Porch & Fitted Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Front & Rear Gardens. EXCELLENT BTL OR FTB!

£85,000

FOR SALE



LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL
Immaculate Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, D/G & E/H. Outside There Is A Secure Gated Parking Space And Garage. MUST VIEW!

£89,995

FOR SALE



BOOTH STREET, DARLASTON
Two Bedroom Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner And Family Bathroom. G/C/H. Enclosed Rear Garden. Two Allocated Parking Spaces To Rear.

£90,000

FOR SALE



HORTON PLACE, DARLASTON
Three Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom, Separate W.C And First Floor Shower Room. D/G. G/C/H. Front & Rear Gardens. Off Road Parking.

OIRO £90,000

SHORT HEATH

FOR SALE



WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid Town House. Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge/Diner And Modern Shower Room. Outside Are Two Allocated Parking Spaces & Rear Garden.

OIEO £99,995

SHORT HEATH

FOR SALE



BENTLEY WHARF, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Two Bed Ground Floor Canal Side Apartment. Comprises Lounge, Open Plan Kitchen/Diner, Balcony Offering Canal Views, Bathroom, G/C/H, D/G. Communal Gardens & Allocated Parking.

£100,000

FOR SALE



BLOXWICH RD 5TH, W'HALL
Well Presented Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Family Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H, Garden & Driveway Parking To Front & Enclosed Garden To Rear. GREAT FTB!

£100,000

BENTLEY

FOR SALE



EDINBURGH AVE, WALSALL
Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen & Ground Floor W.C. 1st Floor Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Off Road Parking To The Front & Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£110,000

SHORT HEATH

FOR SALE



LODGE STREET, WILLENHALL
Three Bedroom Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen & Family Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Driveway & Garage. Front & Rear Gardens.

£114,995

FOR SALE



SHERLOCK CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Guest WC, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway Parking To Front And Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£118,995

FOR SALE



LUCKNOW ROAD, W'HALL
Immaculately Presented & Extended Two Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, W.C, Shower Room. D/G & C/H. Off Road Parking. Generous Garden To Rear.

£120,000

FOR SALE



OAKENS DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Semi Situated On A Generous Corner Plot. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom, Majority D/G, G/C/H. Driveway & Detached Garage To Front/Side & Garden To Rear.

£125,000

SHORT HEATH

FOR SALE



WALKERS FOLD, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Three Bed Semi. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Bathroom. D/G & G/C/H. Driveway & A Garage To The Fore With An Enclosed Garden To Rear. GREAT FTB!

OIEO £130,000

SHORT HEATH

FOR SALE



STOURMORE CLOSE, W'HALL
Three Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway Parking & A Garage To The Fore With An Enclosed Garden To Rear.

£140,000

FOR SALE



HILLBURY DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Extended Three Bedroom Semi. Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Play Room And Family Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway Parking & Garden To Front. Enclosed Garden To The Rear.

£145,000

FOR SALE



WELLAND GROVE, W'HALL
Three Bedroom Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. D/ Glazed, G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear. Driveway & Garage.

£149,995

FOR SALE



HUNTS LANE, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Extended Four Bed Semi Detached. Comprises Of Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge/ Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor Bedroom, Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H, Off Road Parking, Generous Plot.

£165,000

FOR SALE



CASTLE DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Three/Four Bed Link Detached. Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Ground Floor W.C & Bedroom. Three First Floor Bedrooms & Jack And Jill Bathroom. D/G. G/C/H. Driveway & Garage. Rear Garden.

£165,000

FOR SALE



HIGHMOOR CLOSE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Garage, Block Paved Driveway And Enclosed Rear Garden.

£169,995

FOR SALE



BILSTON LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Hall, Guest W.C, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Veranda & Family Bathroom. Maj D/G. G/C/H. Garden To Fore. O/R/P. Extensive Gardens To Rear.

£185,000

FOR SALE



MILL LANE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached Bungalow With One Bed Annex. Comprises Of Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Family Bathroom. The Annex Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner & Bedroom With En-Suite Shower Room.

£270,000

FOR SALE



BLOXWICH RD NTH, W'HALL
Detached Three Bed Having Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge With Inglenook Fireplace, Separate Sitting Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen, Galleried Landing, Family Bathroom, Garage, D/ Glazing, C/ Heating.

£275,000

FOR SALE



RAVENSCROFT RD, W'HALL
Four Bed Detached. Comprises Of Porch, Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, 24ft Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Utility & Ground Floor W.C. First Floor Has Bathroom & W.C. Two Driveways & Garages. Extensive Rear Gardens.

£280,000

SOLD



BROADWATERS RD, DARLASTON
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BROWNING CLOSE, W'HALL
SALE AGREED IN JUST 10 DAYS

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED - BUYERS WAITING

CALL FOR A FREE MARKET APPRAISAL NOW
£90,000

SOLD



WELLS AVENUE, DARLASTON
SALE AGREED IN JUST 8 DAYS

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED - BUYERS WAITING

CALL FOR A FREE MARKET APPRAISAL NOW
£99,995

SOLD



TEMPLE ROAD, WILLENHALL
SALE AGREED IN JUST 11 DAYS

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED - BUYERS WAITING

CALL FOR A FREE MARKET APPRAISAL NOW
£109,995

SOLD



SIMMONDS PLACE, WEDNESBURY
SALE AGREED IN JUST 8 DAYS

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED - BUYERS WAITING

CALL FOR A FREE MARKET APPRAISAL NOW
£125,000

SOLD



W'TON RD WEST, BENTLEY
SALE AGREED IN JUST 3 DAYS

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED - BUYERS WAITING

CALL FOR A FREE MARKET APPRAISAL NOW
£160,000

SOLD



GEORGE ROSE GARDENS, DARLASTON
SALE AGREED IN UNDER A MONTH

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED - BUYERS WAITING

CALL FOR A FREE MARKET APPRAISAL NOW
£160,000

SOLD



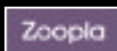
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 • Three Bedrooms, Re-fitted Shower Room
 • Garage, Driveway, Rear Gardens, No Chain
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 • Impeccably Appointed Modern End Terrace
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 • Excellent Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom
 • Double Width Driveway, Gardens, Gas Ch, D Glaz
£125,000



WILLENHALL CLOTHIER STREET
 • Renovated 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace Property
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 • Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating System
 • Rear Gardens, No Upward Chain
£110,000



SHORT HEATH BENTLEY LANE
 • Superb 2 Bedrooms Second Floor Apartment
 • Excellent Open Plan Dining Room / Fitted Kitchen
 • Side Annex with Lounge, Dining Kitchen
 • Double Glazing, Gas CH • Allocated Parking Space
£103,000



ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE
 • Superb Four Bedroom Detached with Garage
 • Open plan lounge, dining room • Family room
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 • En-suite shower room • Double glazing • Gas CH
£365,000



WILLENHALL MILL LANE
 • Detached 3 Bedroom Bungalow on Corner Plot
 • Spacious Lounge • Kitchen • Luxury Bathroom
 • 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom • Double Glazing • Gas CH
 • Side Annex with Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Bedroom & En-Suite
£270,000



NEW INVENTION ALBERT CLARKE DRIVE
 • Impressive Much Improved Modern Semi Detached
 • Hall, Lounge, Re-fitted Dining Kitchen
 • Two Good Size Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom
 • Garage, Drive, Excellent Front And Rear Gardens
£120,000



HADLEY HEATH HATHAWAY CLOSE
 • A Superb Modern Detached In Popular Cul De Sac
 • Hall • Lounge • Dining Kitchen
 • 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom • Double Glazing • Gas CH
 • Garage, Block Paved Driveway • Rear Gardens
OFFERS OVER £120,000



WILLENHALL YALE ROAD
 • Well Presented Modern Town House
 • Hall, Lounge, Impressive Conservatory, Guests Wc
 • Two Bedrooms • Parking For Two Cars
 • Enclosed Rear Decked And Paved Garden
£120,000



WILLENHALL DILLOWAYS LANE
 • Beautifully Presented Two Bedroom Mid Terrace
 • Bungalow with Pleasant Front & Rear Gardens
 • Spacious Lounge • Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
 • Bathroom • Gas CH • Double Glazing
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 • Outstanding Four Bedrooms Extended Semi
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 • Impressive Conservatory • Luxury Shower Room
 • Garage • Block Paved Drive & Pleasant Gardens
£185,000



WILLENHALL CAERNARVON CLOSE
 • Extended 3 Bedroom Semi Detached • No Chain
 • Lounge • Dining Room • Extended Fitted Kitchen
 • Spacious Bathroom • Gas CH • Double Glazing
 • Block Paved Driveway • Gardens
£114,995



WILLENHALL ALTON AVENUE
 • Renovated 3 Bedroom Semi on Popular Road
 • Hall, Spacious Lounge
 • New Fitted Dining Kitchen • New Shower Room
 • Garage • Block Paved Drive • Rear Gardens
£134,995



COUNTY BRIDGE SOMERSET ROAD
 • Well Presented Extended Semi Detached
 • Through Lounge / Dining Room, Extended Kitchen
 • Three Bedrooms, Excellent Re-fitted Bathroom
 • Double Glaz, Gas CH, Driveway, Pleasant Gardens
£134,000



PORTOBELLO MOUNT ROAD
 • Deceptively Spacious 3 Bedroom End Terrace
 • Lounge, Sitting Room, Spacious Fitted Kitchen
 • Loft Room, Large Bathroom, Rear Gardens
 • Gas Central Heating System, Double Glazing
£130,000



WILLENHALL SHEPWELL GREEN
 • Improved Traditional 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
 • Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen
 • Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating
 • Driveway, Front And Rear Gardens
£119,000



PORTOBELLO BROOK ROAD
 • Impressive 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
 • Lounge, Re-fitted Kitchen, Conservatory
 • Superb Outbuilding (Ideal As A Gym Or Office)
 • Gas CH, D Glaz, Driveway, Pleasant Gardens
£115,000



WILLENHALL CLARKES LANE
 • Pleasantly Appointed 3 Bedroom Detached
 • Hall, Lounge With Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen
 • Bathroom, Allocated Parking Space
 • Double Glazing, Gas CH, No Upward Chain
£86,000



LANE HEAD HIGH ROAD
 • Renovated 3 Bedroom Property • No Chain
 • Gas Central Heating System, Double Glazing
 • Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms
 • Shower Room And Rear Gardens
£75,000



WILLENHALL DURSLEY CLOSE
 • Pleasantly Appointed 3 Bedroom Detached
 • Gas Central Heating • Majority Double Glazing
 • Conservatory • Double Length Garage
 • Spacious Fitted Dining Kitchen • Bathroom
£150,000



WILLENHALL ALTON AVENUE
 • Renovated 3 Bedroom Semi on Popular Road
 • Hall, Spacious Lounge
 • New Fitted Dining Kitchen • New Shower Room
 • Garage • Block Paved Drive • Rear Gardens
£134,995



WILLENHALL CAERNARVON CLOSE
 • Extended 3 Bedroom Semi Detached • No Chain
 • Lounge • Dining Room • Extended Fitted Kitchen
 • Spacious Bathroom • Gas CH • Double Glazing
 • Block Paved Driveway • Gardens
£114,995



NEW INVENTION HILTON ROAD
 • Well 3 Bedroom mid terrace • No chain
 • Hall with wc • Superb refitted dining kitchen
 • Lounge • Refitted shower room
 • Double glazing • Gas CH • Rear garden
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br- Ideal first time purchase or investment property, Porch Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility, Downstairs wc, 3 Bedrooms Bathroom, no upward chain, front and rear gardens, Central Heating, call Paul Dubberley now to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £68,000

Primley Avenue
Walsall



br- Well presented semi detached residence situated in a popular location close to all amenities and transport links. Gas Central Heating and UPVC double glazing this spacious family home briefly comprises: Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, En suite shower room to master, Shower Room, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage, No Upward Chain.

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950

Manorhouse Close
Walsall



br- Investment Opportunity
Modern Ground Floor Apartment in a convenient location with in a short distance of Walsall Town Centre, Motorway access and Bescot Train Station. Currently let with a monthly rental income of £475 per calendar month. UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating this spacious

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000

Stowmans Close
Bilston



Ideal for FTB. A well presented two bedrooms semi detached house, which benefits from lounge fitted kitchen, family bathroom front and rear garden and ample parking. Accommodation also benefits from double glazing and central heating.

OFFERS AROUND: £129,950

Park Meadow Avenue
Bilston



A well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated on the stow lawn estate accommodation comprises open plan, lounge fitted kitchen 3 bedrooms and a family bathroom the property also benefits from off road parking, front and rear gardens double glazing and central heating.

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000

Parklands Road
Bilston



These don't come up for sale very often!! 3 Bedroom detached house, lounge/diner, breakfast kitchen, downstairs wc, family bathroom, garage and driveway, rear garden, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £140,000

Broadstone Avenue
Walsall



Truly delightful Semi Detached Residence in a sought after location close to all local amenities and transport links. Having many original features this property needs to be viewed to appreciate the accommodation on offer. UPVC Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating and briefly comprising: Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room, Guest Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, Front & Rear Gardens.

OFFERS AROUND: £165,000

Birch Lane
Walsall



A SPACIOUS MODERN DETACHED RESIDENCE WITH IMMACULATE ACCOMMODATION ARRANGED OVER THREE FLOORS & SITUATED IN THE POPULAR AREA OF PELSALL. The property further features master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms, good size lounge, kitchen & breakfast area, dining room, utility room, family bathroom & guest WC. Contemporary style throughout & must be viewed.

OFFERS AROUND: £210,000

Burford Close
Walsall



br- Double Fronted Semi Detached residence in a popular location close to all local amenities and transport links. Spacious accommodation briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom & Separate WC, Front and Rear Gardens. Call 01902 241100 No Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950

Drayton Street
Walsall



IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY A 3 bedroom semi detached home being double glazed and centrally heated. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed low maintenance rear garden and off road parking.

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000

Darwin Road
Walsall



End Terraced Residence on a good size corner plot which benefits from UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating and No Upward Chain. Briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, 2 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Front & Rear Garden. EPC Rating D

OFFERS AROUND: £74,950

Havacre Lane
Bilston



3 Bedroom semi detached house, entrance porch and hallway, dining room, lounge, sunroom, kitchen, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, block paved driveway, rear garden with garage and parking access to rear, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £124,950

Portway Road
Bilston



3 Bedroom semi detached house with no upward chain, entrance hall, lounge/diner, modern kitchen, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, driveway, front and rear gardens, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £132,000

Williams Close
Willenhall



Well presented Semi Detached residence situated in a popular cul de sac location in Short Heath. Benefiting from UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Cavity wall and Loft Insulation and No Upward Chain, briefly comprising: Entrance Hallway, L-Shaped Lounge, Kitchen with modern boiler, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage. EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £137,500

Rudge Close
Willenhall



A well presented 3 / 4 bedroom terraced property, the property benefits from lounge fitted kitchen 3 / 4 bedrooms family bathroom and rear garden. The property also benefits from central heating and double glazing plus off road parking EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000

Bure Grove
Willenhall



Immaculate 3 Bedroom semi detached house on the popular Riverpoint estate, lounge/diner, 2nd reception room, utility and downstairs wc, modern kitchen, en-suite to main bedroom, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing, driveway, front and rear gardens, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - C

OFFERS AROUND: £160,000

Ivanhoe Road
Wolverhampton



Greatly improved 3 Bedroom semi detached house in excellent condition, entrance lobby, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing, driveway and lawned rear garden, No Chain. call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £109,995

Rosehill
Willenhall



Fabulous traditional 4 bedroom terraced house, entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, utility room, family bathroom, central heating and double glazing, garden with patio area, call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £140,000

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Auction

Thursday 11th
June 2015
at 6.00pm Precisely

Banks's Stadium, Walsall
Football Club, Bescot
Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA



Lot 2
Hardy Road Walsall
Viewings: 30th May and 8th June 9:30am

This traditionally styled mid terraced property is in need of full modernisation and has issues with the floor slab. Whilst the property has central heating, the remainder needs total refurbishment and comprises: Ground Floor: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall opening into Dining Room measuring and Rear Lounge, First Floor: Three Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £35,000 - £40,000



Lot 4a
Beech Road Tamworth
4th June 12pm and 10th June 10am

This non standard construction (Wates) mid town house is located on a popular residential development and would make an ideal purchase for a cash investor. Set back behind a driveway with a private garden to the rear all amenities are close at hand and the accommodation with gas central heating and double glazing comprises: Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Open Plan Lounge/Diner, Kitchen. First Floor: Bedroom One (front), Bedroom Two (rear), Bathroom.

●Guide Price £77,500 PLUS



Lot 7
Parker Street Walsall
Viewings: 30th May and 8th June 10:45am

Situated close to Bloxwich town centre this Victorian mid terraced property has gas fired central heating and double glazing and would make an ideal purchase for an investor. Ground Floor: Lounge double doors to Dining Room, Rear Lobby, Kitchen, Bathroom. First Floor: Three Bedrooms.

●Guide Price £45,000 - £50,000



Lot 9
Buchanan Avenue Walsall
Viewings: 30th May and 8th June 1:30pm

Situated with views across Walsall Arboretum to the front and close to Walsall town centre this detached family home has suffered some structural defects (see legal pack for details) and offers an ideal development opportunity. The spacious well planned accommodation with double glazing and central heating comprises:- Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Large Lounge, Fitted L-Shaped Breakfast Kitchen, Separate Dining Room, Lobby and W.C. First Floor: Bedroom One (front) with steps up to full En-Suite Bathroom, Bedroom Two (rear), Bedroom Three (front), Bedroom Four (front), Family Bathroom with matching suite.

●Guide Price £120,000 PLUS



Lot 10
Westbourne Road Walsall
Viewings: 30th May and 8th June 1pm

This Substantial double fronted semi-detached property is situated in an ideal location for Walsall town centre and offers great potential for investors. The property is in need of some refurbishment and offers great scope for improvement and possible development with vehicular access to the site. The centrally heated and double glazed property comprises:- Ground Floor: Entrance Hall leading to under stair cupboard, W.C. Living Room, Lounge, Kitchen with side door leading to garden. First Floor: Hallway leads to Bathroom and Two Bedrooms. Second Floor: Small Hallway leads to Bedroom Three with skylight, Bedroom Four with separate large storage room and another storage room at the end of the landing.

●Guide Price £140,000 PLUS



Lot 11
Chester Road Erdington
28th May 3pm and 6th June 10am

This very spacious Five Bedroom double fronted property is ideally located for local amenities and is already benefiting from part double glazing and gas central heating. As well as a large mature garden the property comprises: Ground Floor: Guest shower room, Sitting room, Lounge, Dining Room and Kitchen. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Second Floor: Bedrooms Four and Five

●Guide Price £165,000 PLUS



Lot 12
Fisher Road Bloxwich
Viewings: 30th May and 8th June 11:15am

Traditionally styled semi detached property in need of complete modernisation and improvement but conveniently located within a short distance of Bloxwich centre. Ground Floor: Reception Hall with stairs off, Kitchen/Diner (to front) with access to outbuildings and side access. Full width Lounge. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £60,000 PLUS



Lot 13
Aldridge Road Great Barr
6th June 12:45 and 8th June 3:15

Purpose built first floor maisonette with double glazing and storage heaters conveniently located close to all amenities ideally suited to the needs of an investor or first time buyer comprising: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Kitchen, Lounge, Two Bedroom, Shower Room, w.c. and garage. Viewings: Wednesday 13th May 3:15pm, Tuesday 19th May 3:15pm, Tuesday 26th May 3:15pm, Monday 8th June 3:15pm

●Guide Price £70,000 PLUS



Lot 15
High Street Walsall Wood
By appointment through auctioneers

A modern detached family home currently let on an Assured Shorthold Periodic Tenancy dated 21st October 2014 at a rent of £550.00 PCM. Conveniently located in a popular residential area close to Walsall Wood centre, the property has gas central heating, is predominantly double glazed and comprises: Ground Floor: Reception Hall with stairs off, Lounge leading into Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen First Floor: Bedroom One (front), Bedroom Two (rear), Bedroom Three (front) and Bathroom. Outside: Garage. The property is set back behind a lawned fore garden flanked by a driveway with off street parking. Whilst to the rear is a private enclosed garden.

●Guide Price £100,000 PLUS



Lot 16
Intown Row Rear of 47-55 Bridge Street Walsall
By appointment through auctioneer.

This two-storey Commercial Property offers great potential for investment with easy access to motorway links and a Walsall town centre. The property comprises a recently refurbished first floor as well as the ground floor including a Sub Station premises which has been sold by way of a long lease at a nominal rent. The Property Comprises: Ground Floor: Store (191 sq ft) First Floor: Hall/Inner Lobby, Kitchen, Toilet and 5 Separate Rooms. (Access to first floor via External Staircase)

●Guide Price £45,000 PLUS



Lot 18
Birches Rise Willenhall
Viewings: 30th May and 8th June 11:45am

Situated close to Willenhall town centre, this detached family home is in need of some improvement whilst offering an ideal opportunity for an investor or owner/occupier. The well planned accommodation with the benefit of new double glazing comprises: Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen Utility Room and w.c. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £90,000 PLUS



Lot 20
Hardy Road Walsall
Viewings: 30th May and 8th June 9:50am

Traditionally styled mid terraced property with gas fired central heating in need of complete modernisation and having issues with the floor slab.

Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and Bathroom

●Guide Price £35,000 - £40,000



Lot 21
Cambridge Street Walsall
Viewings: 30th May and 8th June 12:30pm

A well maintained three bedroom semi detached property situated in this particularly convenient residential location, ideally suited to the needs of a young family purchaser with uPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating. The property in brief comprises: Hall, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Guest W.C., Three Bedrooms, Tiled Family Bathroom, Fore and Rear Garden with potential for off street parking. EPC Rating D

●Guide Price £80,000 PLUS



Lot 22
Flat 24 School Lofts, Cecil Street Walsall
By appointment through auctioneers

Conveniently located close to Walsall Town Centre this immaculate double glazed ground floor flat would make an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor who could receive a gross yield of in excess of 10% (based upon a purchase price at the Guide). Set in a prominent position with secure gated allocated parking the property comprises: Accommodation: Communal Hall, door to Entrance Hall, Lounge, Well Equipped Fitted Kitchen with stainless steel sink unit, range of units and built in electric oven and hob, fridge and freezer. Bedroom One, Bedroom Two, Shower Room with tiled walls and floor. Shower Cubicle, low level w.c. and wash basin.

●Guide Price £53,000 PLUS



Lot 23
Dawson Street Walsall
Viewings: 30th May and 8th June 10:15am

Traditionally styled semi detached property in need of complete modernisation and improvement. Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Lobby with W.C. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and bathroom.

●Guide Price £30,000 - £35,000



Lot 24
Flat 3 Bridge Street Chambers Walsall
By appointment through auctioneers

This First floor two bedroom flat offers superb access to local transport links and is situated in the centre of Walsall town centre; the property is in need of some refurbishment and offers great scope for a future investor offering good potential yields. The property comprises: Accommodation: Entrance hall leading to Bathroom, Living Room, Kitchen, Bedroom One and Bedroom two. (Viewers are advised to bring a torch)

●Guide Price £39,000 PLUS



Lot 25
Prince Street Walsall
2nd June 1pm and 6th June 12pm

Victorian end terraced property being gas centrally heated and predominantly double glazed situated close to Pleck Centre. In need of some improvement and modernisation the property would suit an investor or owner occupier and comprises: Ground Floor: Lounge, Dining Room, Inner Halfway with stairs to first floor off, Kitchen with an Ideal gas central heating boiler. Rear Lobby with door to outside and access to Bathroom with panelled bath, pedestal wash hand basin and w.c. First Floor: Three Bedrooms

●Guide Price £59,000 PLUS



Lot 26
Delves Crescent Walsall
6th June 11am and 8th June 4pm

This traditionally styled gas centrally heated and double glazed semi detached property is set on a larger than average plot and offers scope for improvement and modernisation. Conveniently located the property comprises: Ground Floor: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge with bay window to front, Dining Room with French door to rear garden, Kitchen, door to Garage. First Floor: Three Bedrooms and shower room.

●Guide Price £110,000 PLUS



Lot 27
Delves Crescent Walsall
6th June 11.30am and 8th June 4:30pm

Situated in a popular residential area of South Walsall this traditionally styled semi detached property is in need of modernisation and improvement. Ground Floor: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen (not fitted). First Floor: Bedroom One (front), Bedroom Two (Rear), Bedroom Three (front), Bathroom.

●Guide Price £120,000 PLUS

●Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide

K. Stuart Swash

AUCTION – 9th JUNE 2015

31

The Chronicle Thursday, May 28, 2015



CHAPEL COTTAGE OLD STOWHEATH LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Deceptively spacious Detached, Two Reception, Kitchen
Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH.
Outside: Stores, WC, Double Garage, several additional outbuildings, large plot.
epc: TBA

Guide: £145,000 / £155,000

VIEWING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th
MAY @ 9.45 a.m.**



33 MARTIN STREET WOLVERHAMPTON

Well presented Mid Terraced, enclosed Porch, Two Reception, smart Kitchen, large Landing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH., upvc windows long Rear Garden. epc: C.69

Guide: £68,000 / £73,000

VIEWING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th
MAY @ 10.45 a.m.**



19 WEST PARK COURT CONNAUGHT ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Conveniently yet discreetly situated Ground Floor Flat, Hall with fitted cupboards, Lounge overlooking grounds, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Gas CH., upvc windows, Garage. epc: D.63

Guide: £58,000 / £63,000

VIEWING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th
MAY @ 1.00 p.m.**



PARADE OF LOCK-UP GARAGES

r/o 19-29 MARNEL DRIVE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Parade of 16 + two additional parking spaces

15 currently let producing £3,888 p.a.

Potential gross income £4,176

Guide: £48,000 / £53,000



PARCEL OF FREEHOLD LAND 31 UPPER VILLIERS STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

Formerly the site of a property – an area of open land having frontage of 42ft approx. to Upper Villiers Street – estimated site area of 500 sq. yds. or thereabouts

Guide: £15,000 / £20,000



1 MOUNT ROAD, PENN

Well located Detached, Porch, Hall, 26ft Through Lounge, Kitchen
Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas CH, upvc windows, off-road parking
Rear Garden approx. 120ft. depth.
epc: E.48

Guide: £130,000 / £135,000

VIEWING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th
MAY @ 11.30 a.m.**



19 EASTCROFT ROAD PENN

Established residential area – set well back from road Porch, Hall, Two Reception, Kitchen, Lobby, WC., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, upvc windows, Large 18ft. workshop area, pleasant Rear Garden with open outlook beyond. epc: E.42

Guide: £58,000 / £63,000

VIEWING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 29th & 30th
MAY @ 12.15 p.m.**



GOSPEL END, SEDGLEY

Excellent Agricultural Barn

approx. 1,400 sq. ft. (14'6" to eaves)

Steel truss framed unit built of brick with profiled clad upper section, pitched roof with lights, roller shutter to 14' – Freehold

Guide: £18,000 / £23,000

VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



BUILDING LAND WITH PLANNING PERMISSION

r/o 44-48 GOLDTHORN HILL,
WOLVERHAMPTON.

Rectangular Site currently having a parade of 8 Lock-Up Garages.

Planning Permission granted for erection of Four Flats – three 2 bed + one 3 bed / 2 bath

Guide: £70,000 / £80,000



CITY CENTRE – WHEELER'S FOLD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Victorian brick built Unit with internal steel frame,
Ideal Storage, Garaging or other uses (STPP)

Ground Floor approx. 550 sq. ft. + additional First Floor area with windows
Guide: £23,000 / £28,000

VIEWING

**BY APPOINTMENT WITH
AUCTIONEERS**

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

(subject to Conditions and prior sale)

on TUESDAY 9th JUNE 2015 @ 6.30 p.m.

at the Ramada Park Hall Hotel

Park Drive, Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton, WV4 5AJ

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VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK
PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

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Walsall Road, Walsall
• Superbly Designed Detached Bungalow
• Set on 0.8 Acre Plot
• Three Bedrooms all having En-Suites
• Grand Entrance Hallway
• Lounge with Inglenook Fireplace
• Fitted Kitchen

£475,000



Sutton Road, Walsall
• Detached Dormer Bungalow
• Sought After Location
• Close to popular Primary and Secondary Schools
• Off Road Parking
• Four Bedrooms

£449,950



Nutmeg Grove, Walsall
• Impressive Detached Residence
• Double Detached Garage
• Sought After Development Close To Walsall Town Centre
• Close Proximity To Popular Schools
• Superb Kitchen/Diner

£374,995



Lawnswood Drive, Walsall
• Deceptively spacious detached property
• Four Bedrooms
• Master Bedroom having En-Suite Bathroom
• Lounge
• Kitchen/Diner

£350,000



Nutmeg Grove, Walsall
• Extended Five Bedroom Detached
• Lounge
• Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
• Utility/Guest W.C.
• Master Bedroom with En-Suite
• Three Further First Floor Bedrooms

£329,995



Westminster Road, Walsall
• No Upward Chain
• Executive Detached Residence
• Breakfast Kitchen
• Conservatory
• Two Reception Rooms
• Study
• Four Bedrooms
• En-suite

£300,000



Coalheath Lane, Walsall
• Extended Link Detached Dormer Bungalow
• Three Bedrooms
• Lounge
• Conservatory
• Superb Extended Kitchen/Diner
• Large Driveway
• Delightful Rear Gardens
• No Upward Chain

£260,000



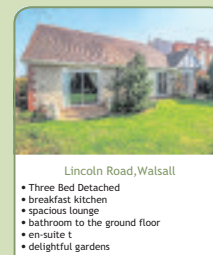
Linnet Grove, Willenhall
• Extended Five Bedroom Modern Detached
• Superbly Presented Throughout
• Sought After Cul-De-Sac Location
• Spacious Lounge
• Extended Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
• Dining Room

£250,000



Field Road, Walsall
• Imposing Detached Property
• Extended Kitchen/Diner
• Garage
• Off Road Parking
• Superb Rear Garden
• Two Reception Rooms
• Three Double Bedrooms
• En-Suite to Master

£240,000



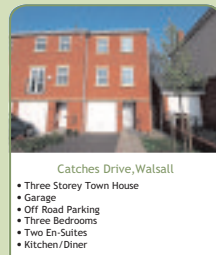
Lincoln Road, Walsall
• Three Bed Detached
• breakfast kitchen
• spacious lounge
• bathroom to the ground floor
• en-suite
• delightful gardens

£220,000



Stamping Way, Walsall
• Detached Four Bedroom Three Storey
• Two Reception Rooms
• Fitted Kitchen/Diner
• Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
• Three Further Bedrooms

£219,950



Catches Drive, Walsall
• Three Storey Town House
• Garage
• Off Road Parking
• Three Bedrooms
• Two En-Suites
• Kitchen/Diner

£165,000



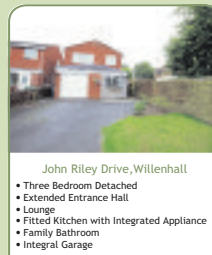
Mayfields Drive, Walsall
• Extended Modern Family Home
• Sought After Cul-De-Sac Location
• Superb Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
• Lounge
• Dining Area
• Refitted Family Bathroom

£159,950



Harrison Street, Walsall
• Traditional Detached Property
• Two Reception Rooms
• Off Road Parking
• Extended Kitchen
• Three Bedrooms
• Bathroom

£140,000



John Riley Drive, Willenhall
• Three Bedroom Detached
• Extended Entrance Hall
• Lounge
• Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliance
• Family Bathroom
• Integral Garage

£139,995



Beechtree Road, Walsall
• Entrance Hall
• Guest Cloakroom
• Lounge
• Dining Room
• Kitchen
• Three Bedrooms

£139,950



Barns Lane, Walsall
• Traditional Semi-Detached
• Off Road Parking
• Attractive Rear Garden Overlooking Countryside
• Superb Open-Plan Kitchen/Diner
• Three Bedrooms

£137,500



Ravenscroft Road, Willenhall
• Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Lounge
• Fitted Kitchen
• Additional Sitting Room/Bedroom
• Ground Floor Wet Room
• Three Bedrooms

£135,000



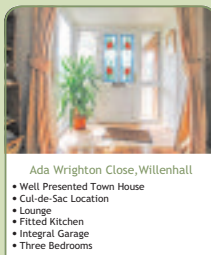
Warren Place, Walsall
• Large Corner Plot
• End of Terrace
• Popular Cul-de-Sac Location
• Lounge with dual aspect windows
• Kitchen
• Utility Room

£125,000



Station Street, Walsall
• Unique Split Level Mews House
• Prime Location in Town Centre
• Original Character Features
• Lounge with feature fireplace
• Breakfast Kitchen
• Three Bedrooms

£125,000



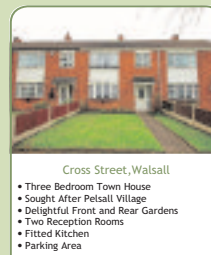
Ada Wrighton Close, Willenhall
• Well Presented Town House
• Cul-De-Sac Location
• Three Bedrooms
• Lounge
• Fitted Kitchen
• Integral Garage
• Three Bedrooms

£125,000



Shireview Road, Walsall
• Extended Semi-Detached Property
• Sought After Location Near Pelsall Common
• Three Bedrooms
• Two Reception Rooms
• Breakfast Kitchen

£124,950



Cross Street, Walsall
• Three Bedroom Town House
• Sought After Pelsall Village
• Delightful Front and Rear Gardens
• Two Reception Rooms
• Fitted Kitchen
• Parking Area

£120,000



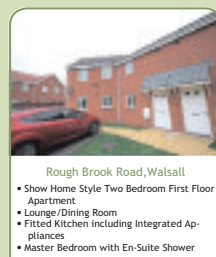
Ida Road, Walsall
• INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
• PLANNING PERMISSION APPROVED FOR CONVERSION TO FLATS
• SEMI-DETACHED
• CLOSE TO WALSALL TOWN CENTRE
• CLOSE TO WALSALL MANOR HOSPITAL

£120,000



Yorkshire Grove, Walsall
• Show Home Condition
• Modern Semi Detached
• Sought After Jubilee Gardens Development
• Guest WC
• Open Plan Kitchen/Living Room

£120,000



Rough Brook Road, Walsall
• Show Home Style Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
• Lounge/Dining Room
• Fitted Kitchen including Integrated Appliances
• Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower

£100,000



Walkers Fold, Willenhall
• Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
• Lounge/Diner
• Kitchen
• Two Double Bedrooms
• Family Bathroom
• Front & Rear Gardens

£100,000



Tewkesbury Road, Walsall
• Well Presented Town House
• Three Bedrooms
• Lounge
• Refitted Kitchen/Diner
• Refitted Bathroom
• Ground Floor WC

£99,950



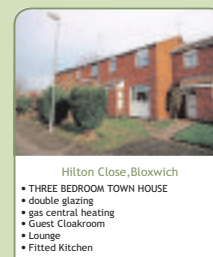
Hawbush Road, Walsall
• Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
• Two Reception Rooms
• Kitchen
• Side Entrance
• Utility/Guest W.C.
• Family Bathroom

£97,000



Terret Close, Walsall
• Modern Two Bedroom Apartment
• Located Close to Walsall Town Centre
• Secure Gated Car Park
• Allocated Parking Space
• Secure Communal Entrance
• Lounge with Juliet Balconies

£95,000



Hilton Close, Bloxwich
• THREE BEDROOM TOWN HOUSE
• double glazing
• gas central heating
• Guest Cloakroom
• Lounge
• Fitted Kitchen

£94,950



Sneyd Lane, Walsall
• Much Improved Town House
• Three Generous Bedrooms
• Spacious Lounge
• Superb Kitchen/Diner
• Ground Floor WC
• Modern Bathroom

£90,000

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Fairview, Brownhills

- Four Bed Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Guest Cloakroom
- Spacious Lounge
- Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Spacious Lounge
- Garage
- No Upward Chain

£300,000

Mount Road, Walsall

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen with Appliances
- Utility
- Further Reception/Garage
- En-Suite Bathrooms

£285,000

Curlew Drive, Walsall

- Detached David Wilson Home
- Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master
- Spacious Lounge
- Dining Room
- Conservatory

£275,000

Wood Lane Close, Willenhall

- Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Charming Lounge with Open Fireplace
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- First Floor Bathroom

£275,000

Lichfield Road, Walsall

- Four Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Situated in a Plot just under 1 Acre
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Utility area
- Shower room with separate shower

£264,995

Linnet Grove, Willenhall

- Extended Five Bedroom Modern Detached
- Superbly Presented Throughout
- Sought After Cul-De-Sac Location
- Spacious Lounge
- Extended Refitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Dining Room

£250,000

Vernon Way, Walsall

- Two/Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- One/Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room

£200,000

Chester Road, Walsall

- MODERN DETACHED PROPERTY
- EXCELLENT TRANSPORT LINKS
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN OPEN TO DINING ROOM
- CONSERVATORY

£200,000

Norton Road, Walsall

- Superbly Appointed Link Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom
- Lounge

£199,950

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- ●●● NEW BUILD ●●●
- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
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- Refitted Kitchen/Conservatory

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- Close to Primary & Secondary Schools

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- Spacious Lounge with Juliet Balcony

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- Fitted Gloss Kitchen/Diner

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- Easy Access to Walsall Town Centre
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen

£130,000

NEW

Trent Road, Bloxwich

- Three Bed Semi Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
-

£130,000

Oakridge Close, Willenhall

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- Refitted First Floor Bathroom
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£119,950

Wilkin Road, Walsall

- Much Improved End of Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Refitted Luxury Bathroom
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Irvine Road, Walsall

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£110,000

Lichfield Road, Willenhall

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- Fitted Kitchen
- Luxury Bathroom
- Allocated Parking

£110,000

Buxton Close, Walsall

- Extended Mid Town House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast/Kitchen
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Gas Central Heating

£110,000

West Street, Leamore

- Well Presented End Of Terrace Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Refitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

£90,000

Bloxwich Road, Walsall

- Refurbished Victorian Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Refitted Kitchen
- Through Lounge
- Ground Floor WC
- Refitted First Floor Bathroom

£90,000

Netley Road, Walsall

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- Breakfast Kitchen

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- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Study/Utility Room
- Shower Room

£85,000

Queen Mary Street, Walsall

- Victorian Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms Kitchen
- Bathroom
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- No Upward Chain

£79,950

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 • Family Bathroom

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 Subject to Contract

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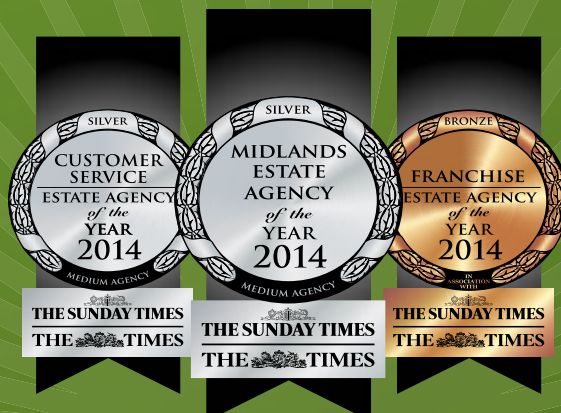


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HOW DO YOU MEASURE SUCCESS?

INTERVIEW WITH ESTATE & LETTINGS AGENT - ANISA, BRANCH DIRECTOR FROM GOODCHILDS

If you ask people how they measure success you will undoubtedly get varying answers: Some people see making money as a measure of success, some people say being happy is a sign of success and others believe being in a position to help others around you is a measure of success.

Whatever your measure of success is, Anisa's first year running her own Estate Agency has been a phenomenal success, having worked for the Goodchilds team for eight years and being the top sales negotiator, it was never in doubt that Anisa has the ability to run her own branch. After her dad's heart operation she now had the drive and determination

to do something that would mean she could not only be in control of her own future but also provide for her farther in later life.

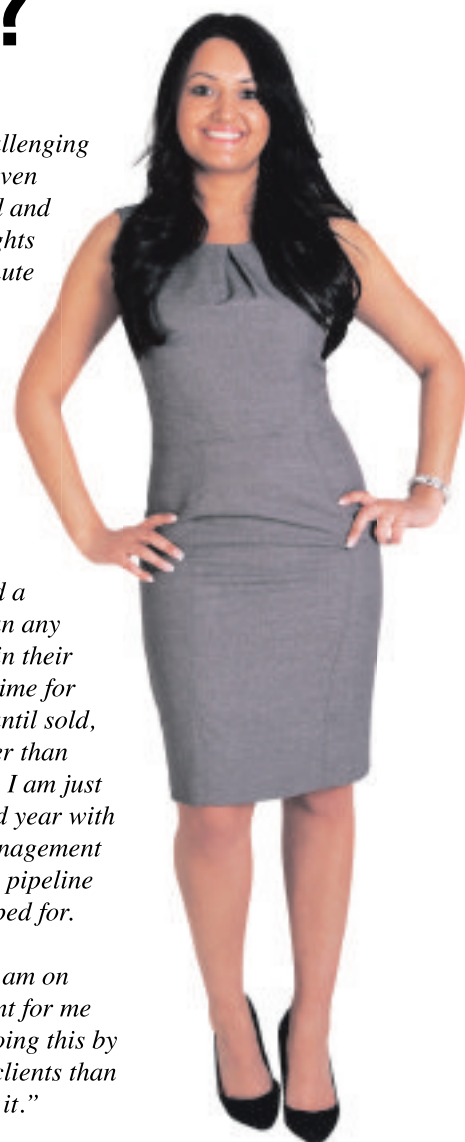
She is fortunate enough that Estate Agency is not only something she is good at, but also something she loves doing, often working until eight at night and over weekends, even when the profit of the branch had no impact on her own earnings.

In May 2014 she took that life changing decision and opened her own Branch of the award winning Estate Agency 'Goodchilds'.

"It has been far more challenging than I had expected with even longer hours than planned and stressful weekends and nights but I have loved every minute of it."

"There have been tears of stress and joy but anyone who owns their own business will tell you that you have to put your heart and sole into it and it takes over your life. In my first year I have sold a higher % of properties than any other Goodchilds branch in their first year trading and my time for properties on the market until sold, when checked last, is better than anyone of my competitors. I am just about to go into my second year with more properties under management than projected and a sales pipeline 60% above what I had hoped for."

"I still love what I do and I am on track for the lifestyle I want for me and my family and I am doing this by doing a better job for my clients than my competitors and I love it."



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Q70 gets piece of action

By James Parker

Bristling with advanced technology and packing quite a punch from its 2.2-litre diesel and 3.7-litre V6 petrol engines, the Infiniti Q70 means business in the executive car market. The brand isn't exactly looming large on the radar of buyers but exclusivity and value for money can go a long way.

The rear-wheel-drive Infiniti Q70 is powered either by a 320PS 3.7-litre V6 petrol engine in M37 guise, or by a 170PS 2.2-litre diesel which boasts 400Nm of torque to rival the class best.

There's also a 364PS petrol hybrid version. A 7-speed Adaptive Shift Control

gearbox takes care of gear swapping duties and includes further driver assistance in the shape of DRM Downshift Rev Matching which blips the throttle on down changes and a Drive Sport mode which brings the wheel-mounted paddle shifters into the equation.

The Q70 is fitted with Infiniti Drive, a system by which drivers can alter the set-up of the car between four modes.

There are Standard, Eco, Sport and Snow settings which adjust the throttle sensitivity, the transmission mapping, the level of ESP stability control intervention and the 4WAS 4-Wheel Active Steering system.

There's also a BSI Blind Spot Intervention system which uses radar to detect when there's a vehicle in the blind spot, warn the driver and intervene if the car is steered in that direction. BSI can actually brake selected wheels to create a yaw effect and move the car back into its lane away from danger.

The need to offer something different from the established German alternatives is not lost on Infiniti and as well as a host of technological features, the Q70 showcases the brand's distinctive styling themes.

Executive

The curvy lines and sportscar design cues aren't what we've come to expect in the executive car sector.

The rear has an element of Jaguar XF about it and elsewhere there are hints of Hyundai Coupe.

Underlying the bodywork is a layout that's clearly geared towards an involving driving experience.

The engine is at the front of the ladder-frame chassis but mounted behind the



'The need to offer something different from the established German alternatives is not lost on Infiniti.'

front axle to optimise weight distribution. The suspension is a double wishbone set-up at the front with a multi-link system at the rear and a pair of anti-roll bars provide additional bracing.

The long wheelbase of the Q70 yields better cabin space than its swooping exterior lines would suggest.

There's also a luxurious air about the place with standard leather trim with a mix of aluminium and piano black detailing.

There's an analogue clock at the centre of the dash (an Infiniti trademark) and a

large display screen above through which the various ancillary systems are controlled.

The major players at the top end of the executive car market have a habit of squeezing out newcomers but Infiniti is confident of getting a piece of the action with its Q70.

High technology and a sporting focus make the car an intriguing choice but it's the element of exclusivity that may appeal most to buyers who've grown tired of the usual suspects in this sector.





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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 25 Tor Way Pelsall Walsall WS3 4JT, who died on 06/03/2015 are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 31/07/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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A visit is also made to Seville, where, with a wealth of monuments and buildings, there is plenty to see. Enjoy a fascinating tour of the city, which will include the Alcazar - the fortified palace of the Moors and the gothic cathedral.

The holiday continues on to Cordoba, which was the ancient capital of the Moors and is famous for The Mezquita, the grandest and most beautiful mosque ever constructed in the Moorish World. Another feature of the city is the well preserved sixteen arched Roman bridge spanning the river, that is still in use today.

Also included is a trip to Granada, home to one of the world's greatest buildings, the Alhambra, and for many, a guided tour of this classic building will be the highlight of the break.

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PRICE FROM £119

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Sinatra The Man and his Music at the London Palladium

Two days departing September 5

PRICE FROM £139.⁹⁵

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- Services of a tour manager
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Eight days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £879

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Tours of Dubrovnik, Montenegro, Dalmatian coastlines
- Visits to Mostar, Split and Trogir
- Visit to Krka National Park
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



Bradshaw is looking for call-up for Wales

WALSALL striker Tom Bradshaw is hopeful of earning a first senior Wales call-up after admitting: "I've done all I can".

The Saddlers top scorer is waiting to discover if he has forced his way into Dragons boss Chris Coleman's plans, ahead of Tuesday's squad announcement for next month's Euro 2016 qualifier with Belgium.

Bradshaw, who netted 20 goals in his first season at the Banks's despite missing a chunk of the campaign with chronic hamstringing trouble, thinks there is not much more he could have done to force the manager's hand. "To score 20 in 36 games is all a striker can do to push their claim," said the 22-year-old. "If Chris Coleman thinks I would be ready for the squad I'm sure he might put me in."

"If he doesn't, it is completely up to him."

Bradshaw, who grew up in Gwynedd and has been capped at under-19 and under-21 level, was twice on standby for the Wales squad during the past season, only for any chance of a call-up to be ended by injury. He added: "I am a believer if it is meant to happen, it is meant to happen. You can't get hung up on these things." "They happen in football and I think I have bounced back, when I have come back from injury I have scored goals."

"I think I am in as good a form now as when I was on standby, so why not?"

Bradshaw has a year left to run on his current deal with the Saddlers and is in talks to extend it. In the meantime, he is eager for the team to show more consistency."

Experience is key for Wolves, advises Bully

LEGENDARY striker Steve Bull believes the addition of an experienced defender and midfielder could prove vital to Wolves' promotion hopes next season.

The 306-goal club record scorer feels a bit more nous may be needed as Kenny Jackett's men look to clinch a place in the Premier League next season.

And the frontman is adamant the right additions together with more experience for youngsters Dominic Iorfa, Kortney Hause and Ethan Ebanks-Landell will see the Molineux men compete for an automatic promotion slot.

"You've got to look at centre-half definitely in case something happens to Danny Bath or Richard Stearman," the 50-year-old said.

"If Kenny brings two or three experienced players to settle the kids down a bit, I think we could have a really good go. I'll be excited about coming and I think the fans will too. If they start the way they finished it should be electrifying at Molineux."

Big signing is way forward, says skipper

CAPTAIN Darren Fletcher believes a big signing this summer can help lift Albion to the next level.

The skipper has given his backing to boss Tony Pulis' summer shake-up, which began in earnest after Sunday's final game of the season with the release of Youssef Mulumbu, Chris Baird and Jason Davidson.

With more comings-and-goings certain, Fletcher is confident the Baggies' head coach can find the quality needed to improve the team – claiming a big signing can lift the whole club.

"I experienced it at Manchester United and a big signing lifts everyone," said the 31-year-old. "You have someone new to impress and all those little factors benefit a club. "You don't want to stand still."

All the President's men beaten



Walsall Rugby Club took the season out on a high against a President's team

WALSALL Rugby Club brought their season to an end with an entertaining game at Delves Road.

The final game of the season saw a President's team take on the Walsall team. It was played in true Barbarian style with some superb rugby being displayed by both teams.

The President's team contained players from several West Midlands and Stafford-

shire clubs and they proved to be a stern test for Walsall. The visitors were led by Walsall's departing captain Steve Halbert and he saw his team hang on to a thrilling 31-29 victory.

The Walsall clubhouse now goes through a process of redevelopment. But it will be ready to welcome all the players back in early July when they will start their preparation for next season.

Side punished but forgiven by fans

Arsenal 4 Albion 1

THE volume at the Emirates Stadium told Albion's players that they were forgiven.

Tony Pulis' side were punished severely for failing to turn up for the final game of the season.

Yet loud appreciation from the travelling fans confirmed to Pulis' men that an off-day to end the campaign would not be held against them.

A combination of Arsenal's brilliance and Albion's last-day lethargy saw the visitors blown away by a first-half Arsenal whirlwind.

Theo Walcott grabbed a hat-trick before the break as Arsene Wenger's men turned on the style a week before facing Villa in the FA Cup final.

And Jack Wilshere capped a classy display with a brilliant goal to give the hosts a 4-0 half-time lead that could have been doubled had they converted all of their chances.

The Gunners eased off after the break, although Gareth McAuley's headed consolation never looked likely to trigger a Baggies comeback on a day when his side were heavily beaten.

It was not a day for recriminations, though, with 2,500 travelling supporters applauding their side from the field just six days after a very different display had earned a 3-0 win over champions Chelsea.

Memory

It was a day to wipe from the memory quickly but one which, in the greater scheme of things, did not matter one iota.

Arsenal pinned Albion inside their own half in the opening exchanges and they made a dream start when they went ahead on four minutes.

Joleon Lescott was dragged out of position and Walcott drifted into the Baggies' left-back area, received a pass and hammered a fantastic shot over Boaz Myhill and into the far, top corner.

It might have been 2-0 straight away, first when Alexis Sanchez bent a free-kick just over and then when the Chilean skipped gracefully into the Albion box before his shot deflected through to Myhill.

Saïdo Berahino blasted over the bar after collecting a Darren Fletcher pass at the end of a rare Baggies break.

But the second Gunners goal arrived on 14 minutes with Wilshere and Walcott at the heart of it again.

Wilshere skipped into the Baggies box and, as defenders threw themselves in to stop him, the ball found its way to Walcott and he slotted in his



James Morrison is brought down by Keiran Gibbs during the final game of Albion's season

second of the game. It was 3-0 just three minutes later as Wilshere produced a moment of brilliance.

The Baggies thought they were safe when they cleared a right-wing corner to the edge of the box, but Wilshere let fly with a fabulous first-time shot with his left-foot that arrowed past a stunned Myhill and nestled in the top corner.

The goals abated for a while but the waves of Arsenal pressure did not. But the Gunners would not be

suppressed and they added their fourth as Walcott wrapped up his hat-trick in the 37th minute.

It was another superb, one-touch passing move from the hosts with Wilshere and Sanchez heavily involved before Santi Cazorla crossed from the left and Walcott poked home a far-post cross from a couple of yards.

The Baggies pulled a goal back on 57 minutes.

Chris Brunt delivered a corner from the right and McAuley leapt unmarked to head home.

Walsall taste first defeat of season

WALSALL tasted defeat for the first time this season in their top of the table clash with Barnards Green in Birmingham League Division One.

Impressive bowling by Tim Maxfield (5-48) and Ed Denham (3-22) kept a tight rein on the away side who struggled to 150.

But Walsall's batsmen couldn't match the quality of their bowling attack as they stumbled to 126 with James Middleton (28) top scoring.

The result means Barnards Green top of the table, one point ahead of Walsall.

Smethwick are now third in the table after a brilliant 111 not out from Shakeel Janjua inspired victory over Oswestry.

After Qasim Shah (4-56) helped bowl Oswestry out for 251, Smethwick looked to be heading for a defeat as they fell to 61-4.

But Janjua's century, together with impressive knocks from Vikram Sodhi (44) and Sukhjit Singh (27) took them to victory.

Bottom of the table Himley thought they were heading towards their first win of the campaign with Moseley on 190-9 chasing a target of 217 to win.

Wasim Jaffer hit 107 from 126 balls in a total of

Cricket

216-8 for Himley. Adam Din grabbed 77 in Moseley's response but the game looked to be heading Himley's way before number 10 batsman Fred Eburah belted 31 not out from 27 balls to lift Moseley out of the bottom two.

Old Hill cantered to a five-wicket win at Leamington Spa after the home side had been dismissed for 192.

Nigel Davenport (4-36) led the bowling charge for Old Hill who then eased home with solid contributions from skipper Danny Cox (59), Monil Patel (35) and Hamza Ahmed (33 not out).

Dismissed

In Division Two, Penkridge continue to lead the way with Bridgnorth after making it five wins from five against Coventry NW.

Rana Hassan (42) and Alex Watson (33) were the main contributors in Penkridge's 158 before they dismissed the Warwickshire side for 120 in reply.

Wombourne suffered a crushing 155-run defeat against Sutton Coldfield.

James Hunt (44) and Jack Smith (43) helped Sutton to a total of 206 at Rectory Park with Tom Elwell taking 4-65 for the visitors. But Wombourne then slumped to 24-8 before being rolled over for 51.

At 50-8, Brewrod faced similar batting problems at Halesowen before Jamie Lunn (30) and Danny Smith (18) led a slight recovery to see their side to 98.

Eddie Rhodes (4-17) and Tarryck Gabriel (3-20) were the pick of the Halesowen bowlers.

After slipping to 14-2, Ben Stebbings (51) helped Halesowen home.

Stourbridge's total of 203-8 at Amblecote proved no match for Shifnal who raced to an eight-wicket win thanks to a superb unbeaten 128 from Mohammed Ayub.

Tom Collins (61 not out) also impressed with the bat for Shifnal.

In Division Three, Pelsall crumbled to 91 all out at Astwood Bank on their way to an eight-wicket reverse.

Fifteen-year-old George Hargrave hit 49 on his debut for Worfield who reached 209 all out against C & R Hawks.

Hawks raced to victory in 33.3 overs.

Mulumbu is first casualty as boss Pulis makes mark

TONY PULIS has kicked off Albion's summer squad shake-up by releasing midfielder Youssef Mulumbu after six years at The Hawthorns.

The 28-year-old has left the Baggies after 211 appearances and 15 goals while goalkeeper Boaz Myhill and midfielder Claudio Yacob will be with the club next season. Pulis also hopes to tie veteran defender Gareth McAuley down to a new contract with his current deal set to expire this summer.

But it was the departure of Mulumbu that was the headline news when the Baggies released their retained list less than two hours after the final whistle of the 4-1 season-ending defeat at Arsenal.

Mulumbu became a key player under Roberto Di Matteo after signing on loan for Tony Mowbray in February 2009 and making the move from Paris Saint Germain permanent that summer in a bargain £150,000 deal.

But he fell out of favour under Pulis.

Albion have opened talks with Myhill and Yacob about new contracts but Pulis has already secured the pair for next season by activating 12-month options in their current deals.

And he hopes to keep 35-year-old McAuley, too, although negotiations over a one-year deal could stretch into the summer.

Chris Baird and Jason Davidson have been released after failing to establish places in the first-team starting line-up while Andre Wisdom will return to Liverpool following the end of his season-long loan spell. Albion will attempt to offload Victor Anichebe and Stephane Sessegnon."

Joint bosses now in place for Tividale

PHIL MALE and Ross Thorpe have been announced as the new joint-managers of Evo-Stik First Division South side Tividale.

The duo replace Ian Long, who left to join Alvechurch after last week's JW Hunt Cup victory over Stone Old Alleynians at Molineux.

Male, aged 36, retired as a player at the end of the 2014/15 campaign at Sutton Coldfield Town and made several appearances for Tividale under Dean Whitehouse in the West Midlands League.

Thorpe, 33, saw his playing days ended at the age of 17 due to injury and has managed Alvechurch and Coleshill Town having become a qualified coach at the tender age of 21. He has also been assistant manager at Sutton Coldfield Town.

Tividale football general manager Leon Murray said "I'm pleased we've reached the conclusion of our managerial search because we need to start preparing for the 2015/16 season and pre-season isn't too far away now."

Youngsters win final in extra time

A DRAMATIC penalty shootout victory saw Wolves Under-19s end the season in style by lifting the Bitzer Cup.

The Wolves youngsters defeated Mexican outfit Chivas Guadalaraja 5-4 on spot-kicks in Germany, keeper Harry Burgoyne ending up the hero with a crucial save.

Jordan Graham, who was named player of the tournament, had earlier been on target as the game finished 1-1.

Wolves had reached the final without conceding, beating Red Star Belgrade 2-0 in the semi-finals thanks to a brace from Connor Ronan, Graham assisting in both. They overcame VfB Stuttgart and FC Zurich to top their group.

Wolves Under-15s were champions in Germany beating Essen.

Sport

Rugby club end
season on a high
Page 43

Punished but
forgiven by fans
Page 43



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Money's not a magic fix, warns Dean

DEAN SMITH has warned it will take more than just extra cash for Walsall to claim a top-six spot next season.

The Saddlers boss has been handed a bigger budget for his summer recruitment, with chief executive Stefan Gamble last week describing a play-off challenge as realistic.

Smith shares the same ambition but recognises more money doesn't necessarily guarantee success, citing Sheffield United – who yesterday sacked manager Nigel Clough – as a prime example.

The Blades are facing up to a fifth consecutive season in the third tier having been beaten in the play-offs and Smith said: "They are a much bigger club than us, with a much bigger wage bill.

"It would be stupid to say we can just throw money at it and expect amazing results."

He added: "What is important is we go and find a balance.

"We know we cannot go and compete financially with a lot of clubs in this league.

"We have got to find a balance of developing players but also winning games to win promotion.

"To do that, team spirit is key, togetherness and young hungry players balanced with some experienced players who have the drive to win.

"That is how we have to do it. You could say money never guarantees you anything."

Smith accepts this season's run to Wembley in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, coupled with a largely disappointing league campaign, equates to more pressure on his shoulders next term.

But while the trophy run significantly boosted the club's coffers, they are still some way off the finances of those clubs who won promotion. "Everything we do at the club has to be sustainable."

Fitness fears as keeper Given down with groin injury

VILLA'S FA Cup final plans have been thrown into chaos after keeper Shay Given was injured and debutant Jed Steer is cup-tied.

Given, aged 39, suffered a groin problem in training and missed the 1-0 defeat to Burnley as 22-year-old Steer made his Premier League bow, with second choice Brad Guzan on the bench.

Villa would have a massive headache if anything happens to Guzan as Steer is cup-tied having played four ties on loan at Yeovil earlier in the competition.

Given is now being assessed on a daily basis in the countdown to Saturday's Wembley final against Arsenal.

Manager Tim Sherwood said: "Shay injured himself in training and he's doubtful for the final with a groin problem."

"I've no idea of his chances at the moment – we're assessing him every day.

"You don't get many opportunities to look at young goalkeepers and you can only test them and really assess them on this stage and I thought he did all right. I'm not ruling him out yet but it's a concern."

Smith giving Baxendale fresh start

WALSALL boss Dean Smith thinks next season represents a fresh start for James Baxendale after confirming the midfielder remains part of his plans.

The 22-year-old has struggled to fulfil his potential since signing a three-year deal at the Banks's in 2013, failing to make the bench for the final seven games of the season.

Despite making 37 appearances over the course of the campaign, many were as a substitute and he managed only one goal.

But Smith is prepared to persevere and hopes Baxendale can rediscover some of his former flair next term.

Football

"Of course he is (part of the plans), he is still contracted to us," said the Saddlers boss. "We both talked about it, he is disappointed with how the season has gone in that he did not play as many games – I think it is the lowest number of games he has played since he has been here.

"One thing I have always said about him is he is a great lad and sometimes I actually think he tries too hard.

"When you try too hard you can end up not thinking about the game as much as you can do.

He will come back for pre-season and hopefully we get the old James Baxendale back, which we had only glimpses of last season. That needs to be more consistent."

Baxendale has been utilised in a number of different positions during his time with the Saddlers but has more recently been used as a winger, with Smith preferring Romaine Sawyers to play centrally.

The manager believes Baxendale's struggles are partly down to the increased quality of those around him.

He added: "I feel the staff of players we have now is of a higher quality than two years ago."

Edwards is hoping for Wales place

WOLVES midfielder Dave Edwards is hoping to parade his talents among a galaxy of world stars – to help save his place at Molineux.

The 29-year-old is keeping his fingers crossed he is included in Chris Coleman's Wales squad for the Euro 2016 Group B qualifier against Belgium on Friday, June 12, at Cardiff City Stadium. Edwards is itching to join Gareth Bale and Co to face Chelsea playmaker Eden Hazard, Manchester United midfielder Marouane Fellaini, Villa striker Christian Benteke and Everton striker Romelu Lukaku. Chelsea keeper Thibaut Courtois, Toby Alderweireld from Southampton and Tottenham trio Jan Vertonghen, Nacer Chadli and Moussa Dembélé could also be involved.

And he is hoping to impress, following the £275,000 signing of Portsmouth's Jed Wallace, who like Edwards is an attacking midfielder.

"Hopefully I will be in the squad that's announced tomorrow," said Edwards. "I've been keeping myself ticking over fitness-wise in preparation. If I'm not in the squad I will have a couple of weeks off and relax.

"I've been in the last few squads so hopefully I will be involved again but there are a lot of good players to choose from.

"I'm hoping I've done enough in my last few performances to earn a call-up."

Belgium and Wales are level on points at the top of Group B with both teams going into the match undefeated.

Meanwhile, Wolves will renew acquaintance with Hull City and Preston North End next season.

The Tigers were relegated from the Premier League on the final day of the season after drawing 0-0 against Man Utd, while Preston won the League One play-off final, beating Swindon 4-0.

Team will crank it up, says Spink

NIGEL SPINK has tipped Villa to turn it on in the FA Cup final after claiming they probably took things easy against Burnley.

Villa go into Saturday's showdown against Arsenal as huge underdogs.

Preparations for Tim Sherwood's side haven't gone as smoothly as they would have wanted.

But legend Spink, who made 460 appearances in goal for Villa, is convinced they will show a massive improvement in the final.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they had got one eye on the final because they didn't want to get injured," said Spink.

★★★

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VILLA MUST DO BETTER IN CUP

Villa 0 Burnley1

LET'S hope the show is far better than the dress rehearsal.

This really wasn't the best way to sign off before the FA Cup final.

On a day when Wembley opponents Arsenal thrashed Albion 4-1, Tim Sherwood's side couldn't conjure a similarly fitting Premier League curtain call as they went down to relegated Burnley at a packed Villa Park.

In truth they had enough chances to put the Claret's to the sword, but were denied by several saves from keeper Tom Heaton.

And there was a feeling from the low-key performance that they were saving themselves for the big one in five days' time.

The subdued body language on the pitch transmitted to the stands, and there was a feeling that the Holte was twiddling its collective thumbs while being forced to watch a tired warm-up performer before the headline act begins.

Drubbing

After a stirring revival to preserve their Premier League safety, that's two defeats in a row to end their top-flight campaign following the 6-1 drubbing against Southampton.

Burnley were never going to find the same holes as the Saints and maybe there was a tightening up from Sherwood's troops.

But either way, Villa need to be much better against the Gunners if they are to lift the Cup for the first time since 1957.

This setback meant they ended their Premier League season on a sour note.

Danny Ings's sixth-minute header was all that separated the sides on a day when Villa were below-par but would surely have taken something from the game but for a string of saves by Heaton.

Ron Vlaar blazed wide and Heaton denied Christian Benteke and Ashley Westwood in the first half as well as Gabriel Agbonlahor, Fabian Delph and Charles N'Zogbia after the break. Together with the underwhelming performance, there was an unfamiliar look to the team sheet.

Burnley, who started with two former Wolves players in Jason Shackell at left-back and David Jones in central midfield, stunned the Holte by taking the lead in the first real attack of the game.

Double delight night for Joe



Sporting Khalsa centre half Joe Rogers with his two awards

SPORTING Khalsa centre-half Joe Rogers had a double delight as he scooped two awards at the club's end of season awards.

The former Rochester and Tipton Town player won both Players Player of the Year and Supporters Player of the Year awards.

It was a fitting end to a great season which saw Khalsa smash the West Midlands Regional League points total, winning by 27 points and losing only once in the league all season. The Noose Lane side also won the Walsall League Cup.

Craig Bannister won top goalscorer award, bagging 38 goals.

Meanwhile, skipper Lee Wherton was awarded the Manager's Player of the Year trophy.

Club manager Ian Rowe said: "Right from the first day of pre-season, Joe has been brilliant, hardly putting a foot wrong."

"Joe has been the constant, the absolute rock at the back and this season is really the year I've seen the best from him."

"I can't speak highly enough of the players. It's been an unbelievable season and quite honestly there were four or five players who could easily have won each of the awards."

"Hopefully they will cherish this and remember this season."

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